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Photo provided by Ye Nan

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Interpol to join Beijing Olympic security

By Huang Daohen

A major event support team along with state-of-the-art equipment will be dispatched by the International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol) to Beijing before the Games kicks off in August next year, Ronald K. Noble, Secretary General of Interpol said on Monday in Beijing.

Noble made the remarks while speaking with Chinese officials at an international security conference in Beijing. Since Beijing was appointed to host the 2008

Summer Olympics, the Lyon-based organization has strengthened ties with Chinese police officials in order to properly set up a security plan, the secretary said.

The deployed team would provide detailed information on international criminal suspects, such as names, fingerprints, photographs and DNA profiles, according to Noble.

"Terrorists will not use their real names, they will use documents that were stolen or lost in order to conceal their identities,"

Noble said.

The system therefore will permit officers to quickly discover individuals present in the organization's global criminal databases when they apply for Chinese visas.

According to Interpol, next year's Olympic Games may represent a target for al Qaeda and other terrorist groups, therefore those attending the event must keep their eyes open for possible threats.

Interpol's command and coordination center will give the highest priority to information relevant

to the security of the Games that passes through its 186 member country network of Interpol National Central Bureaus.

"Terrorism poses the biggest threat to the success of next year's Beijing Olympics," public security minister Zhou Yongkang was quoted as saying at the same conference.

"Although the general security situation for the Beijing Olympics remains stable, we still face the challenges of terrorism, separatism and extremism," he said.

Blood products to be inspected

By Chu Meng

All blood products will be forced to receive inspection from the State Food and Drug Administration (SFDA) before they can go onto the market.

Yan Jiangying, spokesperson for the SFDA made this announcement at a press conference to brief reporters on the results of two special investigations into China's blood products.

A national compulsory inspection timetable of three catalogs of medical products including transfusion devices, blood transfusion devices and artificial joints has been released. The activity will start next Tuesday.

The SFDA sent 14 inspection teams to investigate 29 blood product manufacturers from April to May in 2007 and 12 inspection teams to investigate 29 vaccine manufacturers in June. "The overall situation of China's blood products and vaccine manufacturers is good and product quality is guaranteed," said Yan.

"During the investigations, we found no serious violation of laws or regulations and most manufacturers have strictly followed good manufacturing practices and tried to improve the quality of their products," she said.

However, Yan admitted that problems existed. A shortage of human albumin was the most serious issue and investigations found that some blood companies still used outdated equipment during the production process.

"Although the SFDA is mainly responsible for the supervision of product quality, the SFDA will try to work with the Ministry of Health to solve this issue," said Yan.

The Chinese drug watchdog calls on public blood donations to fight human albumin shortages as the country continues to experience a nationwide shortage of albumin.

Yan also revealed that many pharmaceutical producers have stopped production of human albumin, due to a shortage in supply of blood plasma.

Goalball tournament shot



The 2007 International Goalball Tournament, one of the "Good Luck Beijing" events opened yesterday.

Xinhua Photos

National subsidies for students

By Huang Daohen

China has been improving its subsidy system since the fall semester this year and the 50-billion-yuan project will cover a total of 20 million students every year, especially for those in poverty-stricken areas, Zhou Ji, the minister of Education, told a press conference at the State Council Information Office on Wednesday.

The improved assistance system aims at enhancing fairness in learning all over the nation and to provide quality, affordable education for everyone in the country, the minister said.

According to the project, more than 16 million secondary and

vocational school students will benefit from more scholarships and grants, while about 150 million students under nine-year compulsory education in rural areas will be exempt from tuition and miscellaneous fees.

Referring to the 18.2 percent increase in food prices among August's CPI figures released this week, Zhou noted that measures have been taken for food problems on campus.

He said the government and schools will offer subsidies for school canteens and get students more involved in pricing the food.

A temporary subsidiary fund of over 25 million yuan has been

given to canteens of all post-secondary institutions and secondary vocational schools in Beijing, according to the *Beijing Youth Daily* on Wednesday.

When asked about the issue of wide concern over university debts, Zhou said the total of 200 billion yuan in debts owed by Chinese universities should not be regarded as serious. "It is only a certain problem in the country's education development," the minister said.

Zhou added that the government will allocate more subsidies from fiscal budgets to help universities solve their financial problems.

Athletes to be put on contract

By Chu Meng

Incidents of retired Chinese medallists failing to make a decent living after their days of glory will not happen again as the National General Administration of Sports (GAS) will have all professional athletes put on a contract.

This means they will be given social welfare protection as in other professions, Liu Peng, the head of the administration announced on Wednesday.

The GAS with the Ministry of Education, Labor and Social Secu-

urity, Public Security, Finance and Personnel jointly released the country's first employment regulation of its athletes. It is supposed to act as a valid document for a long time into the future to guide employment and resignations between athletes and all levels of national sports organizations and bodies.

The new regulation will be implemented this October.

"Under the regulation, the management of professional athletes will be cataloged into the personnel system of state-owned

enterprises. All kinds of insurance payments will be integrated into the current social welfare system nationwide the same as for average citizens," said Liu Peng.

He said that it marks a breakthrough in many aspects. The country will sign a contract package with A-level sports teams, regulate the administrative and employment body of professional athletes, construct a training mechanism and further career transition after retirement for professional athletes.



Russian IL-76 cargo plane and its rescue crew members arrived at Hetian in Xinjiang Tuesday evening.

Russian plane arrives for missing tourists

By Chu Meng

The second helicopter search for six Russian tourists missing in northwest China failed to turn up any trace of them on Wednesday.

Chinese police and local herdsman were still searching in Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region on Wednesday, but the second search by the Chinese helicopter ended at 1:10pm and the aircraft took off again at 14:15pm after refueling.

The second search took in the upper reaches of the Kashi River in Yulong County, with the search area covering 1,080 square kilometers. The helicopter crew said they had maintained an altitude of about 10 meters above the ground, which enabled a clear view.

Russia has sent an IL-76 cargo plane, which arrived in Urumqi on Tuesday, to help search for the missing tourists. It carried 40 Russian search and rescue crew members, three Chinese experts, a light rescue helicopter and an off-road vehicle.

The six Russian canoeists flew to Urumqi on August 11 and later flew on to the Pulu Village, Yutian County, where the Yurungkax River originates, according to Zhang Hong, their Chinese-Russian interpreter. According to the original plan, the expedition team was to meet Zhang at Kashitashi Township in Hotan County, 30 kilometers from Hotan City. But the expedition team failed to show up on September 2 as agreed.

The Russian rescuer said the missing Russians were "experienced canoeists" and he believed they went missing probably because they met with "technical problems". He said the Russian crew would closely cooperate with the Chinese side so as to find their whereabouts as early as possible.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Jiang Yu said in Beijing on Tuesday, "China has closely watched this issue and will work with the Russian experts to find the missing people."

Around 1,100 Chinese armed police, herdsman and farmers have been mobilized to search for them, but so far they have found no trace. "Judging from the season, water flow in the upper reaches is limited, and there is a high chance that their canoes might have been stranded. They are possibly dragging the boats to search for areas more suitable for canoeing," said Memtimin Kurban, a local herdsman who volunteered to the search.

Rainmaking rocket hits sleeping man

By Jiang Xubo

A falling rainmaking rocket hit a man in the Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region on Thursday, leaving him with a crushed shoulder and injured lung.

Li Wenqing, a 38-year-old farmer, survived the incident and is receiving treatment in the Affiliated Hospital of Ningxia Medical College in Yinchuan, the region's capital city, which is located over 200 kilometers away from the scene of the accident in Tongxin County.

"Li is in good condition now. He has regained consciousness. Infection poses the greatest threat for the moment," Yu Yongtao, Li's doctor from the hospital's general surgery

department, said, "It makes a rare case in the region and even across the country that Li could survive the rocket hit."

The hospital will transfer Li to its department of orthopedics to fix his crushed shoulder after they clean his wound and eliminate the infection. However, Li might suffer from respiratory disorders due to the injury to the lung and damaged work capacity, the doctor said.

A parachute on the rocket dropped off which resulted in its freefall and accidental collision with the man, the local meteorological authority announced Wednesday after a several days' joint investigation with the rocket-manufacturer

into the case.

The local authority in Tongxin County launched nine rockets last Thursday afternoon creating rain to ease a drought. One of the rockets flew into a bunkhouse at a local bridge construction and hit Li in the back at about 6pm that afternoon. The man, one of the site's guards, was sleeping after he had come back to the shack for shelter when it rained.

Li's colleagues called 120 for emergency medical services and the medical staff finally sent him to the hospital in Yinchuan where the doctor took out the debris, part of the rocket's barrel, from his body after three-hours of sur-

gery the next morning.

The wreckage, which was seven centimeters in diameter and some 16 centimeters in length, pierced the man's neck and travelled through his left shoulder to the lung. He was transferred to a common ward after he spent three days in the hospital's intensive care unit (ICU), which on average charges some 4,000 yuan daily.

The local government paid the bill and promised to cover the expense for further treatments.

"To save Li's life is surely the most urgent task," Ma Jinbao, chief of the meteorological administrator, said, but declined to give a detailed plan as to compensation

for the accident.

The military-produced rainmaking rockets are 97 percent safe. Rockets have fallen into local houses before but never hurt people, *China News* reported.

The autonomous government launched a total of over 1,400 rainmaking rockets last year, in addition to some 10 rainmaking operations carried out by planes. This brought down a total of 700 million tons of rainwater, according to the region's meteorological administrator.

Drought has been one of the major problems in the autonomous region which is located in the country's dry northwestern lands.

Potala Palace denies closing

By Huang Daohen

A leading Tibetan tourism official spoke out this week to announce the closure of Tibet's premier tourist attraction, the Potala Palace, next year was just a rumor and that tourists were still welcome.

Pagzho, the director of the Tibet Autonomous Regional Bureau of Tourism, said measures had been taken in hopes of dispelling the notion that it will be impossible to travel in Tibet next year.

However, Pagzho said travelers on tight schedules who want to visit Potala Palace should avoid going during the peak summer season, and that winter was a better choice.

"I want people to know that Tibet is highly accessible to tourists as usual," he told the Tibet-based Xinhua news agency. "I'm sure tourists could visit the Potala Palace three times a day if they came here in winter," he added.

To protect the palace, the administrators restricted visitors to 2,300 a day and the opening hours are from 7:30 am to 6:30 pm making tickets highly sought-after during the summer months.

Tourists are forced to stand in long queues from early in the morning in order to buy tickets to the famous Palace.

Pagzho said tourism and cultural relic protection departments had been working on the problem. In the meantime, the regional government has built a hall where tourists who fail to obtain tickets can see the palace in a documentary.

It had also stepped up construction of another museum at the foot of the palace to exhibit cultural relics from the palace, Pagzho said.

Located in the northwestern corner of Lhasa, the Potala Palace was built by Tibetan king Songtsa Gambo in the seventh century during the Tang Dynasty.

Statistics from the Tibetan tourism bureau show that some 9,000 tourists visited Tibet's capital city of Lhasa daily during this summer peak season, of whom almost 5,000 arrived by train.

Top seed dumped out of China Open

By Jiang Xubo

Top seed Nikolay Davydenko was bounced out of the second round of the tournament by Croatian teenager Marin Cilic yesterday, losing 6-3 6-4 in the first upset of the tournament.

Less than a week after his US Open semi-final defeat to Roger Federer, the Russian seemed out of sorts.

Germany Kiefer Nicolas beat French Tsonga Jo-Wilfried 6-3 6-4 to reach the quarterfinals.

Spanish Robredo Tommy, South African De Voest, US Kim Kevin and Russia Kunitsyn Igor were still in the game for the last two positions for the next round.

Fernando Gonzalez, second

seed here, beat fellow Chilean Paul Capdeville 6-1 6-2 to reach the quarterfinals on Wednesday.

Ivan Ljubicic of Croatia seeded seventh into the quarterfinals on Wednesday with an emphatic 6-1, 6-1 win over Viktor Troicki of Serbia.

Fifth seeded Marcos Baghdatis of Cyprus also reached the quarterfinals, beating Boris Pasanski of Serbia, 6-4, 6-4.

Sixth seed Lee Hyung Taik, a South Korean, overcame German Bjorn Phau 7-6 6-1.

The tournament will continue to quarterfinals during the weekend in the Beijing Tennis Center at No.1, Guangcai Road, Fengtai District.



CFP Photo

Cheers, controversy for public arrests in Henan

By Jiang Xubo

District public security bureaus in Zhengzhou, central China's Henan Province, launched a public campaign last Saturday to detain suspects of serious crimes across the city sparking both public cheers and controversy, the *Zhengzhou Evening News* reports.

Most of the suspects, who were charged with serious crimes including robbery, fraud, drug trafficking and rape, were born in the 1980s, according to local police.

At a meeting place in the city's Guancheng County, 30 suspects were forced to squat in a row on a temporary stage at a local plaza. 200 policemen and 30 more armed police officers circled the stage.

Wang Xiaojun, the county police chief announced the suspects' crimes, one by one, on the stage to a crowd of some 600 people, gathering at the plaza for the pillory.

"It's detestable to kill a man for just 200 yuan. These guys deserve death by a thousand cuts," Liu Xuebin, a man in the crowd, cried when it came to a case in which Yan Kai and his three companions allegedly killed and robbed a man for a mobile phone and 200 yuan. "The pil-

lory really vents people's anger. There should be more like this."

The meeting in Jinshui County attracted some 50,000 people, who witnessed the public shaming of 30 suspects in the county. "We chose to put the arrests before the public in an effort to frighten those who are carrying out illegal activities and those who are likely to break the law," Fan Anmin, chief of Jinshui police, said.

However, some law experts did not approve. "It does create an opportunity to vent public anger, yet it is not proper to parade the suspects before the public before they are found guilty," Zhang Dongfang, a local law expert, said.

County police across the city launched similar campaigns. Huiji County even brought the circus of shame into the campus of local Zhengzhou Teacher's College, where thousands of students from the college and nearby gathered to see it.

The campaign is aimed at demonstrating the achievements of the police in reducing crime and to promote public awareness for security, according to the municipal police.

Local newspapers reported large numbers of public arrests in the city last year.

Brief news

18,500 new cases of HIV

The country has filed over 18,500 new cases of HIV and more than 4,300 cases of full-blown AIDS in the first half of this year, Han Mengjie, assistant to the director of the office of AIDS Control Work Committee of the State Council, said.

More large-scale health emergency cases

The country filed 130 cases of health emergencies last month, which claimed 54 lives and made some 5,000 people fall ill. This marks a 14 percent rise in the number of cases from July, the Ministry of Health said on Wednesday.

More expensive houses

House prices in 70 large and medium-sized cities across the country rose over eight percent last month from August of last

year, according to a latest report jointly issued on Wednesday by the National Bureau of Statistics and the National Development and Reform Commission.

Surge in lottery sales

Sales of China's Welfare Lottery, the only national lottery approved by the government, have exceeded 40 billion yuan this year, up some 23 percent over the same period of last year, a spokesman with the China Welfare Lottery Management Center said.

Tying the knot costs money

Couples in the country's urban areas spent an average of 126,600 yuan on wedding ceremonies, home decoration and appliances last year, according to a survey issued by this week the Ministry of Commerce.

(By Jiang Xubo)

EU chamber releases paper for China's business environment

By Han Manman

The European Union Chamber of Commerce in China Tuesday launched its first paper about doing business in China since China completed its five-year WTO accession period.

The *European Business in China Position Paper* said that China's investment climate is becoming more complex and challenging and European companies are finding it tougher to do business in China due to protectionist measures, copyright piracy and a range of other barriers.

The paper provides an up-to-date European industry analysis of the current business environment in China and offers more than 100 recommendations for improvements.

The European Chamber hopes that the paper will assist China in its efforts to improve the overall investment environment for domestic and foreign firms alike.

Joerg Wuttke, President of the European Chamber in China said that, despite real improvement in the legal and regulatory regime, companies in some sectors face new or increased requirements in

areas such as technology transfer.

Wuttke says many things are different in a positive way compared with last year. "For example, the approval process for European cosmetics has been eased considerably. Labeling of foods and beverages, which is very important in southern Europe, has been relaxed."

The paper urged the Chinese government to promote greater transparency, protect intellectual property rights and lift barriers in industries such as telecommunications, insurance and aviation.

The paper noted that there is a lack of independent regulators, restrictive business license application approvals and a tendency to overprotect domestic interests. The "forced transfer of technologies" is also hugely damaging, particularly to companies in the energy sector.

The paper said foreign business is negatively affected by domestic lobbyists who push the government to limit engagement, while the National Development and Reform Commission has restrictive conditions for activities such as mergers and acquisitions.

China: foreign investment up 12.8 Percent

BEIJING (AP) — Foreign investment in China rose 12.8 percent to \$42 billion in the first eight months of this year, the Commerce Ministry said Thursday, despite new limits on investment in real estate and acquisitions of Chinese companies.

Oil reserves to reach 94.8mn barrels by 2010

SHANGHAI, China (AP) — China plans to boost its strategic oil reserves from the current two million to three million tons (15.8 million to 23.7 million barrels) to 12 million tons (94.8 million barrels) by 2010, the Shanghai Securities News said Thursday, citing a senior economic planning official.

By 2020, China expects to have the three months of crude oil reserves recommended by the International Energy Agency, the paper said, citing Chen Deming, a vice chairman of the National Development and Reform Commission, the country's top planning agency.

China governance system faulted in US toy debate

WASHINGTON (Reuters) — Most U.S. lawmakers and safety experts saved their best shots for American inspectors in a hearing on hazardous Chinese toys on Wednesday, but a few took aim at the communist system they said lay behind recent alarming recalls of toys.

The US government has avoided linking the product safety scare to trade or political issues with China, whose cooperation Washington needs on a range of diplomatic and security issues. China's trade surplus with the United States is on track to surpass last year's record of US\$233 billion.

(By Wei Ying)



As the gold price remains strong this week, China National Gold Group Corporation released two kinds of gold mooncakes for the coming mid-Autumn festival, one of the favorite festivals in China.

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What should we get from Crazy English

By Jackie Zhang

A picture showing thousands of students kowtowing to their teachers has aroused people's ire this week. It happened while Li Yang, the founder of Crazy English, was giving an English learning speech at Baotou Middle School in the city of Baotou, Inner Mongolia. But Li replied that what the students did was great.

Crazy English is a special way of learning English created by Li Yang in the 1990s. It asks students to shout English out crazily with no inhibitions.

Earlier this month, Li Yang was invited to Baotou Middle School to give a speech. Three thousand students were to sit on the ground in front of the teacher. During the speech, Li

Yang suggested students show their thanks and respect to their teachers. But since the students were sitting on the ground, Li requested they kowtow to their teachers instead.

Last Tuesday, Li Yang wrote an article about it and put it onto his blog on Sina.com with three photos. Soon, the photo of students kowtowing to their teachers appeared on the front page of Sina Blog. The issue was picked up by different newspapers.

Many people expressed their disapproval of Li Yang's suggestion. Other people simply shared their opinion of the Crazy English methodology.

But Li Yang replied that it was great for their students to kneel down to their teachers.



Li Yang gives a crazy speech of his Crazy English system earlier this year in a middle school in Hubei Province. CFP Photo

Comment

Students should be taught to be respectable

I was astonished when I saw the article and the photo on Li Yang's Blog. It is a kind of insult to students' dignity, personality and free will.

The basic spirit of education is to educate people and to cultivate self-confidence and self-respect. Li Yang said he appreciated what the students did. It shows that he does not understand the basic value of education at all.

- Xu Xiaoping, director of New Oriental Education & Tech. Group Inc.

Thankfulness shouldn't come from outside forces

It is the traditional excellence of the Chinese to express their thanks to teachers. It is the basic moral principle of a person as well. The way of expressing thankfulness can be diversified but the key point is that students should not to be forced.

- Wang Xuming, spokesman of the Ministry of Education

The comments are blaming the education system

On the surface, these comments are blaming Li Yang, actu-

ally, they are blaming the current education system. If the students knelt down to their parents instead of the teachers, I can promise that Li Yang wouldn't be blamed. It is not wrong for Li Yang to ask students to kowtow to the teachers, but the damaged images of most of the teachers nowadays are brought on by themselves.

- Peng Cheng, promoter of Thankfulness Education

Crazy English is controlling people's spirit

Crazy English isn't a learning method, but a way to control people's spirit. The most successful student of Li Yang is himself. He successfully hypnotized himself first and later hypnotized other people.

Every person has his own reason why he cannot speak English well. It is useless to be crazy and to shout English out. If one cannot recognize some basic vocabulary, how can he learn English properly by doing Crazy English?

- Hecaitou, website commentator

Smokers to face picture warnings

By Huang Daohen

Graphic pictures showing the dangers of smoking, such as affected human skeletons and diseased lungs, are to be printed on cigarette packs by January 2009 in an attempt to shock smokers into kicking the habit, an official with the Ministry of Health said on Wednesday.

Chinese tobacco producers printing the warning symbols is to honor the country's commitment to the "Framework Convention on Tobacco Control," the official said.

According to the convention, 30 percent of the cigarette package must be covered by warning symbols, said Li Xinhua, an official with

the State Tobacco Control Office affiliated to the ministry.

Li said China adopted the convention in January 2006 and, according to it, the country must print the warning symbols on tobacco packages within three years and ban all tobacco advertisements within five years.

Jiang Yuan, deputy head of the State Tobacco Control Office, confirmed last month that all tobacco advertising, promotions and sponsorships will be banned across China by January 2011.

China is the world's largest tobacco producing and consuming country, accounting for more than a third of global production and sales.

Comment

Alcohol needs warnings, too

As far as I am concerned, pictures of diseased livers and yellow-skinned people should be shown on bottles of alcohol, too. Smoking took a huge downturn when the larger warnings went into effect. Now it's time to do the same with alcohol.

- Helen, London, UK

Do more in other social areas

The government should also do more to ban fluoride in our water, artificial sweeteners in food and drink, Teflon, cell phones, chemicals in the atmo-

sphere. They base this tripe on junk science.

What about Advertising Standards?

- Phred, UK

It helps some time

I don't smoke but if I did and saw a cigarette package with any of the proposed pictures I would definitely not buy it! It helps some time.

- Jet, Colchester

Great idea!

Great idea! I've always thought that a trip to a hospital cancer ward would be the best

way to wake smokers up, but I also think this is a good idea.

- Smeggy, London

Get permission from deceased's family

I hope they get permission from the dead man's family before it goes to print!

- Cari, Lincolnshire

Other products need warnings

I agree as long as other products carry warnings, as well, such as "These products will make your children fat" on sweets.

- Dpm, N. Ireland

(Source: dailymail.co.uk)

NBA all-stars play charity game for poor kids

By Huang Daohen

A charity basketball game featuring NBA all-stars, Yao Ming, two-time regular season MVP, Steve Nash and Carmelo Anthony will kick off today at Shougang Sports Center.

Yao will lead the Chinese national team against a team made up of NBA all-stars in this charity game. The game was launched by Yao and Nash aiming to raise money for children's education in some of the country's poorest regions.

Nash initially proposed the

game to Yao. "More than half a year ago, Nash mentioned this idea to me and I thought it was great. Then we began to turn it into reality," said Yao at a press conference held earlier in Beijing.

"I promise you that every penny we get from this game will go to the poor children in Western China," Yao added.

Nash, who woke up at 5am in Phoenix City for the press conference, said on the telephone that he felt very happy to participate in this game with Yao and do

something for the poor children in China.

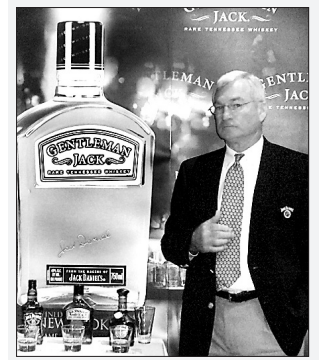
Although just recently returning to training from an injury, Yao said he would try to recover as much as possible before the match. He is even considering playing for both teams alternately in the first and second halves.

The Yao-Nash Gala also included a charity auction banquet held yesterday. All funds raised at the dinner and by the match will be presented to the China Youth Development Foundation, which started Project

Hope in 1989.

It is not the first time Yao, China's biggest sports hero, has been instrumental in philanthropic schemes.

Other NBA players to participate in this charity game are Baron Davis of the Golden State Warriors, Leandro Barbosa of the Phoenix Suns, Yao's Houston Rockets teammates Bonzi Wells, Chuck Hayes, Mike James and 2007 NBA top draft pick Greg Oden of the Portland Blazers as well as No. 4 draft pick Mike Conley of the Memphis Grizzlies.



Jimmy Bedford

Photo provided by Zither Communications

Jack Daniel's master distiller shares whiskey with Beijing

By Gan Tian

Jimmy Bedford was holding two glasses of whiskey and speaking to his audience, "You can see firstly the colors of the two are different. After you taste the samples, you will notice that the first one is sweet with a fruity flavor. And the second one's flavor lasts longer and is stronger." Bedford, the Master Distiller at the world famous Jack Daniel's Distillery, held a whiskey-tasting party at the Intercontinental Hotel on Sunday evening.

This was the third time Bedford had been to Beijing. He arrived once in 1992. "I saw a lot of differences here. The city is now much cleaner, with modern streets and buildings," he said. Bedford also mentioned that the whiskey markets here are broader. "In 1992 the Asian economy was flat, but now, things are different."

As Jack Daniel's Master Distiller, Bedford has often been asked which one is his favorite, Gentleman Jack, Jack Daniel's, or Single Barrel. He joked, "I have always kept three kinds in my house. When guests are coming, I always serve each of the three in turn."

Bedford said one of the most important jobs is tasting the whiskey. Another part of the Master Distiller's job at Jack Daniel's is traveling around the world and spending time with the collectors of Jack Daniel's brands. He has been to more than 130 countries from South Africa to China. When harvest time arrives, Bedford will go back to Lynchburg, Tennessee, where the Distillery is located, and work on his family's farm just up the road from the Distillery.

Bedford chose China as the final destination of his career. He arrived in Beijing last week, and then flew to Shanghai yesterday. After his China trip, he will go back to London and retire. "I was always fascinated with Chinese culture. When I was traveling around the world and saw my product, I always thought I had something here." Having worked at Jack Daniel's for 39 years, Bedford said he was very thankful that he could see the growth of the distillery. "We are recognized all over the world at present, and there are world collectors buying up our products, including China," he said.



Extreme music band to heat up Star Live

Napalm Death rocks to extremes on Sunday.

By He Jianwei

Napalm Death, a British band specializing in extreme music, will debut at the Star Live on September 16.

Napalm Death is "unquestionably, the most influential band in extreme music's ferocious history," Albert Mudrian, the author of *Choosing Death: The Improbable History of Death Metal & Grindcore*, wrote.

Formed in 1982, Napalm Death are the legitimate forefathers of grindcore and achieved early legendary status during their start up days with their vicious raw demos like "Hatred Surge" and their debut album

"Scum" (1987), which started a truly violent revolution within the world of extreme music.

Ever since then, their name is inevitably connected with raving high-speed, and although no member of the original line-up is playing in the band these days, they haven't lessened their ferocity.

Passionately anti-war, pro-animal rights activists and outspoken on social issues, the band never shy away from standing up for their beliefs. "When I write about animal rights, I try to write using a lot of wordplay," Frontman Mark "Barney" Greenway said.

For example, they have a song called "Food Chain." People always talk about the natural order of the food chain and, obviously, Napalm Death describes it from the perspective of your food being chained, restrained, and kept against its will.

"The whole approach of it was to put a human being in an animal's shoes. When a cow wakes up one morning, what he may have to look forward to is a bolt to the head. A battery chicken, life in a cage. She's got a miserable life. I wouldn't necessarily go nuts on anyone that wasn't vegetarian, but I do think that people should be educated on all levels

and should be aware of where their food comes from," he said.

Mark "Barney" Greenway is a dedicated vegetarian. "I've been a vegetarian since I was 14 years old. The school was mindful enough to show a video of an abattoir and from that moment on, I just couldn't bring myself to think about eating meat again," he said.

Info:

Where: The Star Live, 50m north Lama Temple Bridge, 3F No 79 Hepingli Xijie, Dongcheng

When: September 16, 9pm-11pm

Cost: 120-380 yuan

Tel: 6425 5677

NGO's chief scientist draws attention to biodiversity

By He Jianwei

Chief scientist of The World Conservation Union (IUCN), Jeffrey McNeely, gave a speech on biodiversity at the launch ceremony of Countdown 2010 in China last Friday.

At the ceremony 21 Chinese and International organizations in Beijing signed the Countdown 2010 declaration committing themselves to additional efforts to reduce biodiversity loss by the year 2010.

"Countdown 2010 in China will communicate the importance of biodiversity for human well-being, promote the 2010 biodiversity target and remind governments to live up to their

promises," McNeely said.

At the World Summit on Sustainable Development in April 2002, the parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity committed themselves to achieve, by 2010, a significant reduction in the current rate of biodiversity loss at the global, regional and national level as a contribution to poverty alleviation and to benefit all life on earth.

"The ecosystem should be regarded as nature's infrastructure and vital to human survival. As we lose biodiversity. We are not only destroying valuable natural resources but also the very system that keeps us alive," he said.

McNeely believes China enjoys its unique natural heritage. China is home to nearly 15 percent of the world's mammals, 14 percent of its birds and 18 percent of its fish. China's vast natural capital also supports its rapid growth and development.

"The guests of the Beijing Olympics next year should take in the beautiful scenery in China, especially the natural conservations and not just travel solely within the city," he said.

However, this natural capital is increasingly under threat. "In 2006, nearly 3,000 of the plants and animals, featured on the global IUCN Red List of Threatened Spe-

cies, were found in China," he said.

Countdown 2010 has started with organizations, home and abroad. "I'm sure that, by 2010, we will see the positive impact of this network on China's biodiversity," he said.

Jeffrey A McNeely has been at the IUCN since 1980 and held the post as chief scientist since 1996. He has been responsible for overseeing all of IUCN's scientific work. McNeely started working in China in 1983, when he helped to design China's World Wildlife Fund Program which ultimately led to the design of a comprehensive plan for the conservation of the panda.

Malta Embassy to celebrate its National Day



Malta ambassador Karl Xuereb
Photo by Gan Tian

By Gan Tian

The small Mediterranean country of Malta will celebrate its National Day on September 21. Mr Karl Xuereb, the Ambassador of Malta to China, talked to *Beijing Today* about the relationship between the two countries before this special occasion.

"I think it's very interesting that

Malta and China are very different," the ambassador said.

"China is one of the biggest countries in the world and Malta is one of the smallest in the European states. We have less people than Chaoyang District. However, China is in the middle of Asia and we are situated in the middle of the Mediterranean Sea. China has a very strong culture and is exposed to other cultures as is Malta. So it's interesting that we have something in common though we are different."

The ambassador mentioned that the two countries established diplomatic relations in 1972. "We were one of the first nations who recognized the People's Republic of China," he said "There has been collaborations between our governments for many years. For example, we have a number of major infrastructures, including ports, facilities, and roads. There is a dock in Malta called China Dock which was

built with the assistance of China."

"Over the past 35 years, we have signed, on average, one new agreement every year," said the Ambassador, "So now we have agreements which cover medicine, health, security, education, aeronautics, tourism, culture ... every sector you can think of."

The ambassador expressed his wishes that the two countries could have more business cooperation in the future, saying, "we also have sent the largest delegation this year from Malta to China, the largest delegation we have ever sent anywhere. In terms of trade, we have a lot of multinational companies, which have started in China. We have very good deep ports in Malta, which facilitate trading and business."

When talking about the Beijing 2008 Olympics, the ambassador expressed his best wishes to the government and the city. He said

the country would send their best athletes in the shooting event to Beijing for the competition. He also said that pollution may be one of the main problems Beijing is facing. However, he thought recognizing the problem is a big step forward and Beijing is doing this.

Ambassador Karl Xuereb arrived in Beijing in May 2006, taking up his position a month later. Now Mr Xuereb enjoys the city with his son.

"My son is reading in an international school here in Beijing. He loves boating in Chaoyang Park very much. Sometimes we go climbing, skating, and boating with friends. The city is more like home to us now."

The embassy, collaborating with the Ministry for Gozo-Malta, will open an exhibition of abstract paintings by Maltese artist Godwin Cutajar at Ahead Gallery in the 798 Art District next Wednesday.

Spaniard turns performance into public art

By Gan Tian

The Beijing Cervantes Institute, premier center of Spanish culture in the capital, has invited artist Carme Nogueira to open her "Prospera" show in its exhibition hall. Her current works are all a result of her special performance art produced in the city center.

Nogueira brought a large quantity of T-shirts to Beijing and set up a stand outside the Beijing Cervantes Institute last month to give them away to the crowds. Each T-shirt has a Chinese character and a Spanish word on the front and back meaning "prosperity." "They were displayed in a public area in Beijing which made me think that, compared with Western countries, China enjoys much more freedom with such activities. You can see how prosperous Chinese communities are."

Nogueira was taking pictures and filming while doing her performance. Afterwards she enlarged the pictures and painted them onto white paper boxes. Seen on the sides of some boxes is a video showing her art performance.

The exhibition consists solely of these white boxes. They are arranged in different places transforming the exhibition hall into a kind of labyrinth. "As an 'intruder' the city looks like a labyrinth to me," explained the performance artist. "T-shirts are things that connect me to the city, even to its people. When people go through this labyrinth they discover the cultural differences between Spain and China."

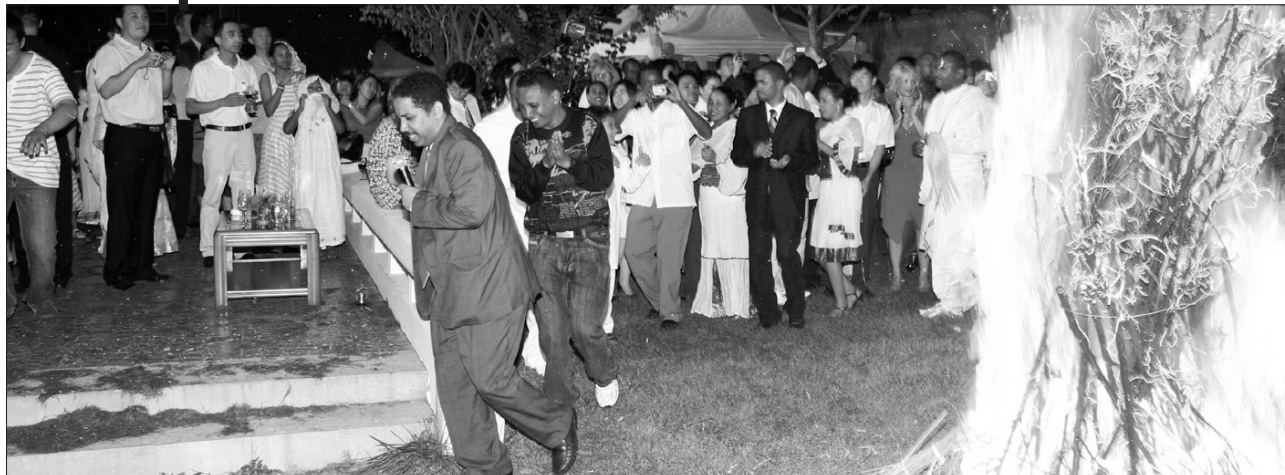
The exhibition is attracting many visitors. Nogueira also discovered an interesting phenomenon here. "Many people were very glad that they appeared in my work. They even brought their families, friends, and neighbors to see the pictures and said to them 'look, that's me!'"

"In Western countries, if you put other people's images on public display, they may become angry and think you are invading their privacy. Here it's very different, the cultures are always compatible. In China, everybody is very positive and passionate in public places."

Public space has always been the main concept in Nogueira's art performance. She said that, in China, there is much more open space than in Western countries, which is very convenient for her art.

"I'm going to learn more about this great country," she said.

Ethiopia celebrates its own millennium



The Ethiopian Embassy in Beijing staged a whole night of carnival activities to celebrate their millenium.

Photo by Zheng Yu

By Han Manman

Though the rest of the world celebrated the turn of the millennium seven years ago, Ethiopia marks the year 2000 on Wednesday September 12. The Ethiopian Embassy in Beijing staged a whole night of carnival activities on Tuesday to celebrate this once-in-a-thousand-year festival.

Ethiopian ambassador to China, Hailekiros Gessesse, said that the millennium was not just about celebrating the unique nature of Ethiopia's calendar system but was also a time for the country to sustain their rich cultural heritage and Ethiopia's

unique position on the African continent.

"The millennium is unique to Ethiopia, the only African country that did not experience colonialism," he said.

"With its unique cultural traditions dating back to ancient times, the Ethiopian millennium is one of the traditions that have been passed down from generation to generation without interruption."

According to the ambassador, both the UN and the African Union have recognized the Ethiopian millennium as a unique African occasion, dubbing it an

"African Millennium."

Gessesse said Ethiopia would launch weeklong celebrations with events including cultural troupes, artists, writers and film makers from various African countries to add color to the festivities.

On Tuesday night, dressed in traditional Ethiopian garments, embassy staff gathered around a fire, sang songs and danced. Many guests soon entered into the spirit and joined the dancing crowd.

As Ethiopia is the birthplace of coffee and has an elaborate traditional coffee ceremony, the embassy specially arranged a

coffee ceremony for the guests. The ambassador said that coffee was one of the most notable gifts of Ethiopia to the world. The word "coffee" is believed to have been derived from "Kaffa," a place in south Ethiopia where coffee still grows wild. It is from Ethiopia that coffee spreads to other parts of the world.

Ethiopia is the only country in the world that has preserved the ancient Julian calendar as a basis for its own Ethiopian Orthodox calendar, which is seven years behind the Gregorian calendar commonly used by the rest of the world.

Middle school students learn to drop a verse

By Jackie Zhang

To read poems with special attention to their rhythm, like rapping, is an exciting and interesting experience. Levi Tafari, a guest invited by the British Council, visited four schools in Beijing this week teaching students to read poems in a rap style.

Levi Tafari is a self-styled urban griot (African storyteller) from Liverpool in England. He also has his own reggae band. As a writer and performer he works locally, nationally and internationally with

schools and community groups and has visited schools in many countries in Europe and Asia.

On Tuesday afternoon, Tafari came to Beijing Luhe Middle School, the third destination for his workshop. On his way to the lecture hall, he watched students doing physical exercises on the playground, playing Ping-Pong and skipping. He was interested in the students and tried to talk to them.

Literature and poetry are not always interesting to middle school

students. When Tafari's performance started, students were interested in him but not his works. When he started to read his poems in rhythm, like a hip-hop star on stage, however, he certainly attracted their attention. He taught students what rhythm was and encouraged them to read poems in the rap style themselves.

"Levi means unity and Tafari means creator. So my name Levi Tafari means creator of unity," Tafari explained, "So I like to create. The pur-

pose of my visit here in China is to tell students to study and think in a creative way."

In Tafari's eyes Chinese students are reserved and shy but they are active and clever. "I've visited European countries like Spain and Portugal. I can feel that European students feel superior. They are confident but sometimes they are over-confident and it was embodied in their poems. I think Chinese students will do better. They are concentrated and like to learn new things."

Nanluoguxiang Performance Festival kicks off this weekend

By Han Manman

Every year, Nanluoguxiang – a UNESCO World Heritage listed site – comes alive with visitors from across China and the world.

As part of the government's initiative to preserve culturally rich areas, this *hutong* recently received a one-billion-yuan facelift, ushering in the Olympics and earning the attention of the world.

This weekend, the heritage and buzz of this *hutong* will be open to the world in the form of a street celebration – the Nanluoguxiang Performance Festival, the first of its kind in Beijing.

There will be a two-day long street celebration on Saturday and Sunday.

The alley will be packed with activities all day and night including a family-friendly fair, traditional Chinese dancing, storytelling and art exhibitions. A slew of live acts including saxophonists, guitarists and graffiti painters will be strutting their stuff around the hip *hutong*. Catch local DJ Tom Foolery and punk rockers Reflector closing the fair at either end of the street at 9pm on the 15th, or, DJ Koalapop, on the evening of the 16th.

Adventures for children include interactive shows with magicians that will leave the kiddies mesmerized – plus plenty of creative and artistic activities to stretch their imaginations. Famous storyteller, Meimei, will enact ancient Chinese folk tales for the little ones with the assistance of three actors.



The festival organizers ran a similar but smaller size event last year.

Photo provided by Nanluoguxiang Performance Festival

The festival is packed with varied kinds of activities both on Saturday and Sunday from 11am to late. Apart from more than 10 music shows, like electro music, rock n' roll, drum and bass and Jazz, *Beijing Today* selected some alternatives as below:

Performer/location	Time	Event
Nicolas Molinier	From 11 am	G-swing dancer
Meimei	From 11am to 5pm	Poetry for children
Mathieu	From 11am	French food specialty
Hans Voll	From 11am	German food specialty
La Galerie	From 11am	Grant opening galley
Li Quiqin	From 11am	10 people painting graffiti on street sheets
Saveurs de Coree	From 11am	Cooking demonstration: Korean
The Pottery Workshop	From 1pm	Demonstration of pottery
Plastered T-shirts	From 6pm	Fashion show, Olympic-inspired collection
Yuan Yuan	From 7pm	Fire acrobat
Mademoiselle et les Chinois	From 7pm	French ballade/accordionist

New fees for US residents to China

By Jackie Zhang

Fees for US citizens applying for Chinese visas have been changed since last month.

According to instructions from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China, starting from August 1, visa fees for US citizens will be adjusted on a reciprocal basis.

No matter the number of entries, the visa fee for the individual applicant will be 100 dollars. The visa fee for a group visa will be 80 dollars per person. Expedited service fees will remain the same.

Choose your own seat at Air France KLM on the web

By Gan Tian

Passengers with or without baggage will benefit from new services offered by most airports served by Air France KLM Royal Dutch Airlines.

You can use a new online check-in service wherever you find access to the web and a printer. Click airfrance.com.cn or klm.com.cn and follow the instructions. You can choose your seat from the on-screen cabin plan then print out your boarding card or, in some cases, do it when you arrive at the airport.

It should be noted that Air France provides this service from 30 hours to 30 minutes before your flight's latest check-in time. If you are traveling with baggage just leave your bags at the baggage drop-off counter before the latest check-in time.

If you are using Air France departure flights from Amsterdam and most French and European airports, you can access a self-service kiosk to check in. It is operational five hours before your flight's latest check-in time. On arrival at the airport

touch the screen and follow the instructions then choose your seat and finally retrieve your boarding card.

In the summer of 2007, Air France and KLM will operate a total of 69 weekly flights (AF 42 and KLM 27) between Europe and continental China (Beijing, Shanghai, Chengdu, Guangzhou and Hong Kong). KLM was last year the first foreign airline to start operations between Chengdu and Europe. This makes the Air France and KLM combination strong in China market.

Application process for Olympic torch bearers

By Jackie Zhang

Foreigner visitors who have lived in Beijing for more than one year can now apply for the position of Olympic torch bearer. This information was released by the Lenovo Group, the top partner of the Olympics, last Sunday.

To apply to be a torch bearer, the

basic condition is that the foreign visitor must have lived in Beijing for at least one year and still have the right to live in China during the Olympic Games next year.

According to Li Lan, vice CEO of Lenovo Group, there are over 80,000 registered foreigners that have lived here for one year with

regular jobs.

"They should have an equal opportunity to be a torch bearer," she said. There are eight quotas provided for foreign applicants. All foreigners living in the mainland of China, Hong Kong or Taiwan can apply.

The deadline for application

is the end of next month. People can log onto chinadaily.com.cn/olympics directly to fill in the application form. A recent natural photo is needed.

Applicants are also required to write an article with two themes: "my experiences in China" and "why I should be a torch bearer."

ASK Beijing Today

Email your questions to: weiyang@ynet.com

I am looking for places that sell tatamo mats and futon mattresses, any good suggestions?

If your Chinese is good, go to taobao.com or bjhsxf.cn/cpxx.asp. To make sure it's the quality you want and to see the real thing. Drop in to Hongxinmeikailong, southwest corner of Dajiao Tingqiao, the east fourth ring road. Most taxi drivers will know the place.

What is the best website for a map of Beijing? Do any sites do searches for addresses with pinyin or English?

Here are a few links that may help you:
9tour.cn/Wiki_Map/City3/10411/2/maptown.cn/China/Map/MTg2MATrAvEl/index.html
btmbeijing.com/contents/en/map
ditu.google.cn
www.51ditu.com
maps.baidu.com
bjbus.com/busmap/map.jsp

I am leaving China for good and I have a lot of stuff I cannot take with me. I want to donate it to some organizations or needy people. Do you know any place where I can do that?

You can try Freecycle Beijing, a Yahoo group! It's an online community in Beijing. Register as a member and then you can send your information to others who might be interested in your articles.

Or, call your *jiedao juweihui* (neighborhood committee) to ask whether they accept donations. Normally, once or twice a year, *jiedao juweihui* will ask residents to donate to a rural area's children and people.

Some people find it much easier to ask their *ayi* to take them away. If you place them next to the dumpster the trash workers will collect them as well.

Where I can find natural aloe vera gel?

You can go to Laitai Flower Market in Nvrenjie, Chaoyang. Most taxi drivers know the place. In the flower market, there are some vendors selling aloe vera plants. You can buy single leaves. Many Chinese women apply the leaves as a natural facial mask. And some Chinese use them in cooking.

I also found one product at Waston's that claims to have a high concentration of natural aloe vera and it only costs 13 or 14 yuan.

(By Wei Ying)

Nobel laureates secure places in the capital

By Jiang Xubo

Harold Kroto, Nobel Prize winner in chemistry, 1996, was made an honorary professor of the Beijing University of Chemical Technology on the first day of the Nobel Laureates Beijing Forum 2007, establishing a closer relationship between China and the US, Kroto's home country.

The scientist gave a lecture "Architecture in Nano-Space" to over 300 faculty members and students in the university at the award ceremony Tuesday, hosting his first class on the campus.

On Tuesday afternoon, when Kroto walked into the university's grand hall for lectures carrying his laptop, everyone rose to their feet to greet the scientist.

Renowned for his research on the C60 molecule, Kroto turned to using slides to make his theories easier to understand. The slides, featuring cartoon figures and sound effects such as ringing bells, worked their magic. It never seemed to fail to spark the audience's laughter when they might be expected to feel tired or bored.

Kroto too enjoyed his lecture. He walked down the stage and went forward to the audience seats when it came to the question-and-answer period. He even went forward to look at a student's notebook to find out what his question was when the student got too nervous to read it out in English.

For the audience, it was not easy to win a public encounter with the Nobel laureate. They had to apply through their campus website for tickets to the lecture almost a week in advance.

Harold Kroto was not alone. Five other Nobel laureates from around the world were there, namely Carlo Rubbia from Italy (Nobel Physics Prize winner in 1984), Thomas Schelling from US (Nobel Economic Sciences Prize winner in 2005), Edmund Phelps from the US (Nobel Economic Sciences Prize winner in 2006), Walter Kohn from Austria (Nobel Chemistry Prize winner in 1998) and Richard Schrock from the US (Nobel Chemistry Prize winner in 2005) were also awarded honorary professorships in Beijing universities during this year's forum including the Beijing University of Technology, Tsinghua University and the Graduated School of Chinese Academy of Sciences, according to the forum organizer.

China to promote energy conservation



The opening ceremony was held in the People's Great Hall on Tuesday.

CFP Photo

By Chu Meng

China will vigorously promote energy conservation and emissions reduction to tackle climate change and promote sustainable development, Vice Premier Zeng Peiyan said on Tuesday in the Great Hall of the People during the opening ceremony of the Nobel Laureates Beijing Forum 2007.

Nine Nobel laureates and five world-renowned scientists includ-

ing Robert Mundell, winner of the 1999 economics prize; Edmund Phelps, winner of the 2004 chemistry prize; Richard Schrock, winner of the 2005 chemistry prize and Thomas Schelling, winner of the 2005 economics prize held meetings concluding today to discuss energy efficiency with 600 Chinese scientists, officials and experts.

They have given more than 50 lectures on topics such as solar

energy and its market development, global warming and the reduction of greenhouse gases in Beijing.

Zeng told the opening ceremony of an international forum of Nobel laureates and world-renowned economists, "In order to ease the conflict between economic development and environmental protection, China will stick to the concept of human-oriented and scientific development, pay more attention to the expansion of domestic demand, the development of primary and tertiary industries, innovation and technological progress."

The government would adjust the development mode mainly through energy conservation and emissions reduction, Zeng said, adding it would actively promote the use of renewable energy such as hydropower, wind energy, biomass and solar energy and the development of nuclear power.

"The proportion of renewable energy in overall energy consumption should rise from the

current eight percent to 15 percent by 2020," he said.

Thermal power and iron and steel industries with high energy consumption and pollution would be eliminated at a faster speed, while energy-efficient buildings and environmental-friendly lighting system would become dominant, Zeng said, calling for development of the recycling economy and efficient use of the energy resources.

Forest coverage would be increased from 18.2 percent in 2005 to 20 percent by 2010 he said, adding that cutting-edge technologies such as hydrogen fuel cells and carbon absorption would be developed to support environmental protection.

During the four-day event these great minds have taken part in various activities with famed Chinese scientists and students to share their thoughts and ideas on how China can dedicate itself more to world energy problems and environmental development.

Laureates share their wisdom with Beijing students



Robert Mundell (left) and Rodolph Marcus chat with students in the Beijing NO. 8 Middle School on Tuesday.

CFP Photo

By Chu Meng

If you were lucky enough to attend the lecture given by Nobel laureates Robert Mundell and Rodolph A. Marcus in Beijing Number Eight Middle School, you would know why they are called real masters. With two of the most brilliant minds in the world, they turned the lecture into an easy, fun but thought-provoking teatime chat with young students.

"When I was your age, I didn't know what the economy was all about," said Mundell, opening his lecture with a more energetic and excited air than when addressing adult audiences on previous occasions.

He continued, "Economics is a science talking about how people live. Everybody who lives in the

world has to learn how to make a living. It consists of four and only four elements: land, labor, capital and enterprise. And capital includes machines and money, as you might already know. Another very important capital is human beings. In economics we call it human capital and it has a close relation with education. Human capital is the added value accumulated from education, which is what you are doing right now."

His words gradually turned a little bit serious and deep and the entire audience was quiet. Students feared to miss a word in case they would fail to follow his meaning but Mundell stopped and switched to talking about his four dogs at home.

"I am a big dog lover. I live in

Italy now and keep four dogs at home. They can catch bones, guard the doors and listen to my orders. You wouldn't want them in the house if they were useless. That is what I called 'dog capital'," he said, to the amusement of the students.

He continued, "Imagine you have two dogs of the same breed, the same size and equally smart. You train one from the beginning, but not the other. After three months, you want to sell them at the market. Obviously the trained one is much easier to sell with a higher price. The other one is hard to sell even with a low price. You see? The differences in prices show their difference in 'dog capital'."

Most students wore a smile and nodded their heads now and then. Mundell concluded "That is

to say, therefore, the purpose of education is to gain human capital. The more you invest in education, the more human capital you get. In the future, your salary differences will reflect the different investments. People should keep investing in training themselves to increase their human capital throughout life."

Among the student audience were his wife and nine-year-old son, Nicholas. In China, Mundell is known as one of the "fathers of the euro". However, Nicholas seemed unconcerned by his father's fame. To him, the 75-year-old Mundell is just a good father. "He is a football genius, he knows how to play football just by using his toes," his son said after his father's lecture.

Edmund Phelps: Shougang relocation sets a good model

Beijing has relocated some pollution-oriented enterprises. If this could be maintained for forty or fifty years, the environment would be greatly improved.

By Huang Daohen

Nobel laureates in economics are always sought-after at the forum and Edmund Phelps, last year's Nobel Prize winner in economics, is no exception. Economics, Phelps said, can promote energy conservation in three main areas.

The option of choosing heavy industry factory sites is the first way, the professor said. Beijing has relocated some pollution-oriented enterprises in the urban area and moved them to a place where the

factories have less impact on the city's environment.

He pointed out that the relocation of Shougang factory is a good model to be promoted in other cities in China. If this could be maintained for forty or fifty years, China's environment would be greatly improved and the air would become cleaner, he added.

Secondly, the professor noted that, in the long run, China should develop the service industry rather than just heavy industries.

Furthermore, the government

should set up some market competition mechanisms, such as tax difference for enterprises.

"Competition will bring more efficiency and more renewable energy," Phelps said, adding that the government should pay attention to setting a level playing field when making the rules.

Referring to the conflict between economic development and environmental protection, Phelps said either might make a concession. "It's like a seesaw battle and this battle is between the two

forces. Some may prefer to protect the environment while some stand by innovation," he said.

According to Phelps, almost all economists are pondering the same question, that is: what kind of organization can coordinate between economic development and environmental protection?

This question will come to the country level, which means environment protection needs a combined effort of all countries.

It is worth noting that Phelps still does not have his own car.



Edmund Phelps, last year's Nobel Prize winner in economics, obtained his PhD from Yale University in 1959.

Professor Phelps' monumental contribution to economics includes introducing imperfect information and imperfect knowledge to macroeconomics. He pioneered the first generation of economic models of unemployment and inflation.



Rubbia, former President of the Italian Institute for New technologies, Energy and Environment, has won international acclaim, not only for his work in the field of particle physics, but also in promoting the development of renewable energy resources. He is currently professor at the University of Pavia, Italy and has recently worked on projects at solar thermal energy plants in Spain.

Public awareness is the No 1 element in energy and environment protection

There are more and more Chinese people realizing that protecting the climate benefits the country itself. Otherwise, the country will be very difficult to develop.

By Han Manman

Italy's Nobel-winning physicist, Carlo Rubbia, warned during his stay in Beijing that, if humanity fails to change its ways, it will pay the price within a decade or so. And, to avoid future disasters, we need to find more energy resources in case the current supply dries up.

Rubbia said in his speech titled, "Energy and Environment in the 21st Century," at present, about half the yearly emissions of CO₂ is absorbed by the oceans and vegetation and the rest is accumulated in the atmosphere. This last contribution today adds up to about 22 billion tons, growing at a rate of about two percent a year. "We can predict with confidence that over the next few centuries the continuative, unrestricted use

of fossil fuels will dramatically modify the Earth's climate in ways that will have an impact on every living organism."

Rubbia urged the world's governments to push funds into scientific and technological research that will help drastically reduce pollution and hopefully halt global warming.

"The only solution is technology. The only way forward is research, research and more research," he said.

Rubbia is an old friend of Beijing. He said he has visited Beijing many times and witnessed the great effort the capital city has put forth toward environmental protection.

"I see the awareness of Chinese people improving a lot, especially the younger generation. Envi-

ronmental protection has become an important subject in Beijing," Rubbia said, adding, "There are more and more Chinese people realizing that protecting the climate benefits the country itself. Otherwise, the country will be very difficult to develop."

As for the question of who needs to pay the bill for all this, the government or the companies, Rubbia said, "today it's not the company or the government, but the public awareness. I think it is a problem that belongs to the average citizen. If you can't make the public clearly understand the problem, it will be impossible to convince the government or the companies."

However, Rubbia believes that the Beijing government's odd and even number auto license plate

plan is not a good way to reduce traffic jams and air pollution.

"You are not going to solve the problem this way. It won't help forcing drivers to go a day without their cars. The problem is more effectively dealt with by halting the consumption of energy sources," said Rubbia.

"Let me give you one example, each car is emitting gas and that emission is four times the vehicle's weight. Generally, a car weighs one ton. That means, every year, in terms of CO₂, every car produces four tons. Look around at how many cars we have today, one billion, I'm guessing, in the world. Ask yourself, how can we solve this huge emission problem. I think the most effective solution is to attack the problem at its source."

Thomas Schelling: Developed countries should be more responsible

Responsibility and obligation aside, developed countries have advantages in technology and funding for research into reducing carbon emissions.

By Huang Daohen

For global warming and climate change, developed countries should take more obligations said Thomas Schelling, winner of the 2005 Nobel Prize in Economics, at the 2007 Beijing Nobel Forum.

Responsibility and obligation aside, developed countries have advantages in technology and funding for research into reducing carbon emissions, he said.

Beijing Today talked to Schelling at the conference hall of the Great Hall of the People.

Wearing a pair of sunglasses and an expensive suit, Schelling is a more movie star than a professor.

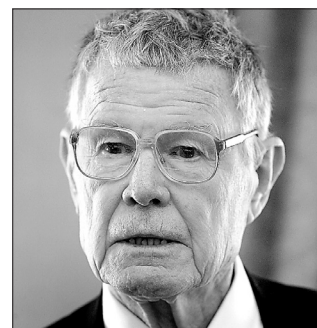
"Developing countries, particularly the big developing countries like China, should not sacrifice their own development to the mitigation of climate change," Professor Schelling said. In all countries that make efforts to reduce carbon dioxide emissions, economic development and the people's health and comfort of life should not be affected at the same time.

Though a master in economics, Schelling said that he has paid close attention to potential climate change in the near future. Will climate change become very serious? How will the earth change? Schelling always puts himself in front of the questions and tries to find the answers.

According to Schelling, the best way to solve the adverse effects of climate change is economic growth and improved health. As an example, he said that one million children die

every year in the world due to malnutrition and disease. "If in the next 50 years we were able to eliminate malnutrition, provide people with purified drinking water and improve sanitation then diseases such as measles wouldn't cause death."

In addition to more obligation from the developed countries, how else can we deal with climate change? The professor suggested that a proper way would be for all countries to achieve the emission targets set by the "Kyoto Protocol."



Thomas Schelling is an American economist who shared the 2005 Nobel Prize for Economics with Robert J. Aumann. He specialized in the application of game theory to cases in which adversaries must repeatedly interact, especially in international trade, treaties, and conflicts. He has been elected to the National Academy of Sciences and the Institute of Medicine.

CFP Photos

Rudolph Marcus: environmental issues demand collective effort

Everything that one does is a chemical reaction, everyone can do something about these big issues.

By Jiang Xubo

Rudolph Marcus, 84, who received the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 1992, is not an environment specialist but he does concern himself with the capital's environmental issues and has many ideas to share.

"What was described in the opening ceremony at the meeting yesterday on the government's environmental plans was very impressive," he said.

"It is a very considerable problem and I think the government

should take it seriously. I am sure something more will be done about it but there is a lot to do. The damage to the environment is considerable and the effort to repair it will take a long time."

For the immediate environmental problems, air pollution caused by cars worries the scientist the most. The municipal government used an odd-even license plate number system mid-August to improve the city's air quality during test events for next year's Olympics.

"It is a very good idea. It encourages people to pool together in their cars," Marcus said, "However, it is not convenient because many people live far away from the place they work. But it is much better to the environment and large scale plans demand collective efforts."

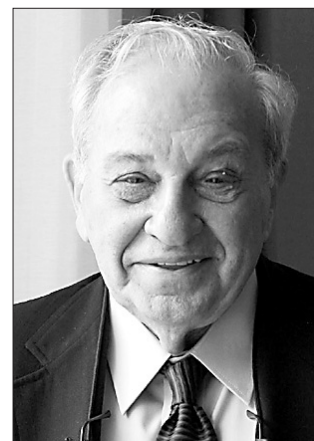
The decrease in the number of the capital's bicycles, which are more environment-friendly, also worries Marcus.

"Years ago, when I first came to Beijing, there were many more

bicycles than cars on the main roads. I am sorry to see many of the bicycles have disappeared," Marcus said.

Though he had been in the capital for less than a week, he did notice something important for the coming Games.

"It is important to reduce the smog here, because the athletes won't breathe well when they are running or doing other things. It is harmful to their health but I am sure the government is going to do its best to reduce it," he said.



Rudolph Marcus, an American chemist, won the 1992 Nobel Prize for Chemistry for his work on the theory of electron-transfer reactions in chemical systems. The Marcus theory shed light on diverse and fundameRichard R. Schrock, winner of Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2005. Photo by Zhang Lei

Richard Schrock makes 2005 Nobel Prize acknowledge green chemistry

These discoveries are green because they let industry create drugs and advanced plastics in a more efficient and environmentally friendly way.

By Chu Meng

The 2005 Nobel Prize in chemistry was chosen by the Nobel committee to be named an example of "green chemistry". It had been awarded to three chemists. The American chemist Richard R. Schrock was one of them. His achievement has played a significant part in the development of metathesis reactions in organic chemistry – an environmentally friendly process for making products ranging from baseball bats to biodiesel fuel.

Metathesis (literally "change

places") reactions involve the breaking and rearrangement of carbon bonds in the presence of specialized catalysts. Richard explained, through his speech, that metathesis is significant to green chemistry because: reactions are more efficient (fewer steps, fewer resources, less waste); reactions are easier to use (stable under ambient conditions); environmentally benign (non-hazardous solvents, less hazardous waste).

Since 2005, the green chemistry team around the world would like to congratu-

late this Nobel Laureate and acknowledge this significant endorsement of the field of green chemistry.

"In simpler words," he said. "these discoveries are green because they let industry create drugs and advanced plastics in a more efficient and environmentally friendly way. The process is used daily in the chemical, biotechnology and food industries to make stronger plastics, better drugs and improved food preservatives."

Organic substances contain the element carbon. Carbon

atoms can form long chains and rings, bind other elements such as hydrogen and oxygen and form double bonds. All life on Earth is based on these carbon compounds but they can also be produced artificially through organic synthesis.

In metathesis reactions, double bonds are broken and made between carbon atoms in ways that cause atom groups to change places. This happens with the assistance of special catalyst molecules. Metathesis can be compared to a dance in which the couples change partners.



Richard R. Schrock, winner of Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2005. Professor Schrock is interested broadly in synthetic and mechanistic organotransition metal and inorganic chemistry, catalysis, and polymers. The primary goal is to synthesize and characterize complexes that are catalysts for the metathesis of olefins.

Walter Kohn warns of the global energy crisis

During this month or no later than next month, China will likely surpass America to become the number one country contributing the most to global warming.

By Han Manman

Chemistry Nobel Prize laureate, Walter Kohn, claims the production of oil and natural gas resources will reach a peak in 2050 and then dwindle gradually until completely exhausted. Then the energy crisis will settle in especially in China, India and other developing countries with their ever-increasing demand for energy.

In his speech entitled, "Coal and Uranium: Two Important but Dangerous Energy Sources," Kohn said the 21st century will present mankind with two huge challenges. "The first, the antici-

pated peaking of oil and natural gas production by 2050 while energy demand continues to rise until finally exhausting these resources. And second, the rapid rise in atmospheric carbon dioxide, largely due to the burning of fossil fuels, contributing to global warming and rising sea levels," said Kohn.

Kohn said coal is an indispensable resource for China. He predicts that during this month or no later than next month, China will likely surpass America to become the number one country contributing the most to

global warming.

He pointed out that China is very reliant on coal and the carbon dioxide it produces is the main factor leading to global warming. However, Kohn said it is not right to totally blame China. "China's average coal consumption is much lower than that of America," said Kohn. He added that the best solution is to develop more substitute energy resources.

According to Kohn, coal and uranium are dangerous energy sources. Coal causes air-pollution and global warming; uranium

enables nuclear weapons proliferation, attracting terrorists and it presents disposal problems. "There is an urgent need for prompt and energetic attention to these dangers, and to ensure the planet's longevity with safe and renewable energy sources, primarily, solar, wind, biomass and possibly nuclear fusion," said Kohn.

His current project has been the production and worldwide distribution of a documentary on solar power entitled "The Power of the Sun." Kohn disclosed that the documentary would soon be seen in China.



Walter Kohn was born in Vienna, Austria in 1923 to a Jewish family. After the Nazis invaded Austria he was able to escape to England through the Kindertransport program. His parents were killed in the Holocaust. He received the 1998 Nobel Prize in Chemistry. The award recognized his individual work on computations in quantum chemistry. CFP Photos



Untitled 2006 Series No 15 by Chen Yu

Art Beijing 2007 is an important contemporary art fair in Asia and integrates Asian art resources. More than 117 galleries from over 12 countries and regions will exhibit contemporary art works that they will sell on behalf of the artists.

Under the influence of the fair, Chinese contemporary art will allow both commercial and academic planners to expand their previous conventions and see it in a broader perspective.

The theme of Art Beijing 2007 is still "Art Un-Forbidden," which best emphasizes the main content of contemporary art and further encourages the most experimental and most leading-edge art creations. Different from the pure academic exhibition of last year's Art Beijing 2006, this exhibition will present greater opportunities for deeper relationships between galleries and artists.

Ryoji Ikeda and his debut

Japan's leading electronic composer and artist, Ryoji Ikeda, focuses on the minutiae of ultrasonics, frequencies and the essential characteristics of sound itself. Ikeda will bring his work "Data Permeating" to Art Beijing 2007.

"Data Permeating" introduces new media works that re-write and re-figure our reality via digital information technology, as well as a human being's perception and recognition experience coming from the atmosphere where the real and the virtual cross wires and become entangled in such new media works.

Using digital data as one of the basic sources for sound and visuals, abstracting the images of landscapes from real world into a language of data, showing a convergence of the real and the virtual, this idea is completely demonstrated through digital technology.

As a solo presentation of Japanese artist Ryoji Ikeda's works, "Data Permeating" shows the artist's audiovisual concept—C4I and datamatics [ver.1.0], which belongs to his latest body of work, datamatics series and a new video installation, "The New York Times", produced in 2007. Those works unite moving images, electronic sounds and other kinds of new media art technologies; using data as their theme and material to explore the ways in which abstracted views of reality—data—are used to encode and understand the world. Each work tries to explore the potential to perceive the data and touch the threshold of one's perception and recognition of data.

Since 1995, Ikeda has been intensely active through concerts, installations, and recordings, as well as, the integration of sound, acoustics and sublime imagery. In the artist's works, music, time and space are shaped by mathematical methods as Ikeda explores sound as sensation, pulling apart its physical properties to reveal its relationship with human perception.

In 2001, Ikeda was awarded the Ars Electronica Golden Nica prize in the digital music category and he was short-listed for a World Technology Award in 2003.



Art journey in Changsha

As well as the activities in Beijing, five well-known Chinese artists will bring their works to the audience in Changsha, the capital city of Hunan Province from September 15 to October 15.

The five artists, including Fang Lijun, Li Luming, Wang Yin, Mao Yan and Li Jin, are leaders in Chinese contemporary art, and each of them has their own style.

Specifically, Fang Lijun prefers cynical realism, his artworks, "floating in the endless visual space, no beginning, no ending", earned approval from the western media. Li Luming's, "Life Above Cloud," added a possibility to Chinese contemporary art, in which the color of traditional Chinese red is used as irony. Wang Yin is conser-

vative; his artworks elevates the representation of China contemporary arts from an immature level. Li Jin is good at representing art as life, generally his artworks are emotional.

Recently an oil painting named "Remembering or Dancing Black Rose" broke auction price records in Chinese oil painting history with a price of 10 million yuan. Its creator is Yan Mao, and he has been regarded as an alien in Chinese contemporary art.

In addition, an arts journey will unfold at the same time. During this time, a lot of artists, collectors and critics from around the world, will take a flight from Beijing to Changsha, to take part in Arts Changsha.

Three Dimensional Viewing Mirror - International Visual Art Festival

Collaborating with Platform China, Art Beijing 2007 will hold the "Three Dimensional Viewing Mirror - International Visual Art Festival," with participating artists from Asia, America and Europe.

Using containers and tarpaulins, an outline resembling a three-dimensional viewing mirror will be created to correlate what is placed inside with space, while audiences will try to make sense of the motif's meaning in a more direct way.

The purpose of the "Three Dimensional Viewing Mirror," literally, is to observe from more than two-dimensional perspectives. It represents individualized viewpoints that progressively observe in thorough and detailed fashion, just like we do with the human eye, to reach a visual conclusion, which is not a three-dimensional understanding of any particular detail but rather a recapitulation of the whole object. Therefore, it allows the viewers to form, subjectively, an idea of

what they perceive.

In this exhibition, "we will focus our eyes on Asia, this specific region. Artists from different countries in Europe and Asia are invited to present their works through analogy and comparison," Sun Ning, the curator of this exhibition, said.

In this way, the artists will attempt to tap into the universality of the "Eastern Spirits" and potential correlations between cultures and languages, through their own understanding and expressions of specific Asian regions and cultural concepts.

Each piece of artwork is an independent point; different art works may share links through analogy or comparison. "They may be compared, contrasted, linked together from one point to another and then perhaps back to where it started. This is a three-dimensional viewing mirror in action," Sun said.



The Story of Time by Liu Chun Hai



Meditation Series by Li Yi Bing



Core of Void by Chen Wenji

at Asian

Art Beijing 2007 brings the feast of art

By He Jianwei

This fall, contemporary art will shine on the stage of Art Beijing 2007; not only Chinese contemporary art, but also Asian art. As the largest contemporary art exhibit in China, Art Beijing 2007 attracts the top artists from all over Asia.

The various activities, including the exhibitions and forums, will not only attract people involved in the contemporary art scene, but also promote art to the general public through its exposure public viewings and low prices.

Volkswagen's art car show

From participatory works from all over China, Volkswagen will judge the art works and choose over 30 of the most outstanding pieces for its Art Car Exhibition.

Art Beijing 2007 will, fully in line with the Volkswagen ideology, invite professional space designers to present a fantastic exhibition of the 30 or so outstanding model pieces offering participants an incredible visual feast.

Info

Main exhibition of Art Beijing 2007

Where: National Agriculture Exhibition Center, No 6, Dong Sanhuan Lu, Chaoyang

When: 10am-7pm, September 20-23

Tel: 6509 6688

Forum on Development of Western Contemporary Art

Where: Conference Room, National Agriculture Exhibition Center

When: 10am-12am, September 20

Forum on Development of Chinese Contemporary Art

Where: Conference Room, National Agriculture Exhibition Center

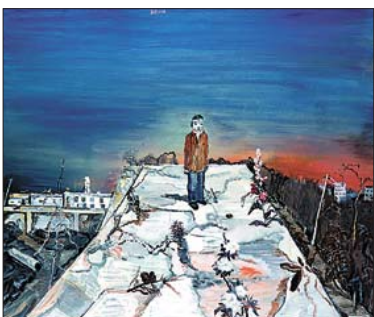
When: 10am-12am, September 21

Forum on Ideas and Concepts of Contemporary Art

Where: Conference Room, National Agriculture Exhibition Center

When: 10am-12am, September 22

Dancing Illusion No 1 by Xiong Yu
Photos provided by Ye Nan



Wall-4 by Wang Qing



Doll No 14 by Huang Shipeng



Absolute Joy by Zhong Biao

A Thousand Splendid Suns

By Han Manman

Like Khaled Hosseini's beloved classic, *The Kite Runner*, *A Thousand Splendid Suns* (384pp, Penguin, US\$25.95) is an incredible chronicle of thirty years of Afghan history and a deeply-moving story of family, friendship, faith and the salvation found in love.

The title is drawn from a 17th-century poem "An Ode to the City of Kabul." In it, Khaled tells the story of two Afghan girls who grow close as women - unlikely friends who are brought together in the chaos of war.

The story covers three decades of anti-Soviet jihad, civil war and Taliban tyranny through the lives of two women.

Mariam is the scorned illegitimate daughter of a wealthy businessman, forced at age 15 into marrying Rasheed, 40, who grows increasingly brutal as she fails to produce a child. Rasheed takes another wife, Laila, 14, a smart, spirited girl whose only other options are prostitution or starvation. Against a backdrop of unending war, Mariam and Laila become allies in an asymmetrical battle with Rasheed.

"What intrigued me about this new book were the hopes and dreams and disillusion of these two women, their inner lives, the specific circumstances that brought them together, their resolve to survive, and the fact that their relationship evolved into something meaningful and powerful, even as the world around them

unravelling and slipped into chaos," Hosseini said.

"As an Afghan, I would like readers to walk away with a sense of empathy for Afghans, and more specifically, for Afghan women, on whom the effects of war and extremism have been devastating. I hope this novel brings depth, nuance, and emotional subtext to the familiar image of the burqa-clad woman walking down a dusty street," he said.

Hosseini's memories of peaceful pre-Soviet era Afghanistan, as well as his personal experiences with Afghan Hazaras, laid the foundation for his first novel and international bestseller. After all the attention his first book got, Khaled said his second was written under considerable pressure.

"The difficulty of writing a second novel is directly proportional to how successful the first novel was, it seems. For me, at

A THOUSAND SPLENDID SUNS

A NOVEL BY THE AUTHOR OF

THE KITE RUNNER

KHALED HOSSEINI

the outset, there was a period of self-doubt and hesitation, as well as a recurring tendency to question and reassess my own literary capabilities and limitations," Hosseini said.

He took his apprehensions in stride, and finally accepted they are shared by all authors.

"And, as I began to write, as the story picked up pace and I found myself immersed in the world of Mariam and Laila, these apprehensions vanished. The developing story captured me and enabled me to

tune out the background noise and get on with the business of inhabiting the world I was creating," he said.

Hosseini was born in Kabul, the son of a diplomat and a high-school teacher. At the time of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in 1979, when Hosseini was 11, his father was working in the Afghan embassy in Paris. The family requested and received political asylum in the US, where Hosseini later went to medical school and became a physician.

The indescribable loneliness

The Ballad of the Sad Cafe: and Other Stories

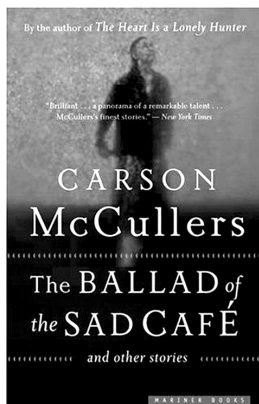
By He Jianwei

Carson McCullers captures loneliness, and her pen burns it into her collection of novellas, *The Ballad of the Sad Cafe: and Other Stories* (160pp, published by Mariner Books, 80 yuan).

The collection contains seven novellas: "The Ballad of the Sad Cafe," "The Jockey," "Madame Zilensky and the King of Finland," "Wunderkind," "The Sojourner," "A Domestic Dilemma" and "A Tree, A Rock, A Cloud."

This collection assembles McCullers's best stories, including her beloved novella "The Ballad of the Sad Cafe." It is a story set in a southern town in the US, similar to many of her other stories. McCullers directly admits her tale may be dreary, and describes the town's Main Street as "miserable."

In this story, a haunting tale of a human triangle that culminates in an astonishing brawl, the novella introduces readers to Miss Amelia, a formidable south-



ern woman whose cafe serves as the town's gathering place.

Amelia is a dark, tall woman with the bones and muscles of a man. Amelia, a hunchback called Cousin Lymon and Marvin Macy, Amelia's ex-husband, form the corners of the triangle.

McCullers depicts love as a force, often strong enough to change people's attitudes and behaviors. None of the three char-

acters are portrayed as particularly appealing people, yet they are loved. People love for very different reasons, "A most mediocre person can be the object of a love which is wild, extravagant and beautiful as the poison lilies of the swamp," she wrote.

Among other works, the collection also includes "Wunderkind," McCullers' first published story written when she was only seventeen about a musical prodigy who suddenly realizes she will not go on to become a great pianist.

The world of Carson McCuller is a world of the lost, the injured, the eternal strangers at life's feast. Here are brilliant revelations of love and longing, bitter heartbreak and occasional happiness-tales that probe the very heart of human existence.

If you were to paint a portrait of McCullers's soul, it might be a little girl sneering at the world. Still, that girl would have a warm heart.

novel. McCullers is best known for her novels *The Heart Is a Lonely Hunter* (1940), *Reflections in a Golden Eye* (1941), *The Member of the Wedding* (1946) and "The Ballad of the Sad Cafe" (1951).

About the Author

Born Lula Carson Smith in Columbus, US, McCullers was in her early twenties when she wrote *The Heart Is a Lonely Hunter*. Like many southern writ-

ers, including William Faulkner, McCullers was conflicted about her birthplace. She dreamed of the snow, excitement, and diversity of New York, and much of that longing is reflected in her first

Bookworm's Recommendations

The China National Publication Import and Export Corporation's (CNPIEC) bookstore recommends the following US best sellers for *Beijing Today* readers.

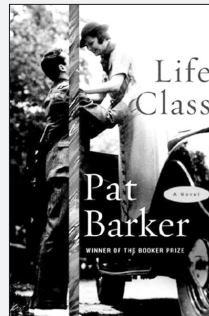
Jenny Niven from the Bookworm gives us the low-down on the three highest-selling books at the popular Sanlitun cafe.

Against the Day
By Thomas Pynchon, 1,104pp, Jonathan Cape, 300 yuan

Spanning the period between the Chicago World's Fair of 1893 and the years just after World War I, this novel moves from the labor troubles in Colorado to New York, to London and Gottingen, Venice and Vienna, the Balkans, Central Asia, Siberia at the time of the mysterious Tunguska Event, Mexico during the Revolution, post-war Paris, silent-era Hollywood and one or two places not on the map at all.

Grotesque
By Natsuo Kirino, 480pp, Knopf, 200 yuan

This is the story of three Japanese women and the interconnection of beauty and cruelty, sex and violence, ugliness and ambition in their



AGAINST THE DAY
THOMAS PYNCHON

lives. Tokyo prostitutes Yuriko and Kazue have been brutally murdered, their deaths leaving a wake of unan-



answered questions about who they were, who their murderer was and how their lives came to this end.

Life Class

By Pat Barker, 320pp, Hamish Hamilton, 255 yuan

In the spring of 1914, a group of young students gather in an art studio for a life-drawing class. Paul Tarrant and Elinor Brooke are two components of a love triangle, and at the outset of the war, they turn to each other.

(By He Jianwei)

Cult wind blows in the cartoon world

By He Jianwei

If you believe Chinese children still like Japanese cartoons, you are sorely wrong. A group of young Beijingers released a new book of "cult cartoons" during the first half of the year. As fans of B-movies, the storyline is full of interesting twists.



Young Pioneers look like good students in their red scarves, but after they eat hormone-laced snack food, their evil nature is revealed. This story and many more are told in "The Choice of Cult youth."

Fourteen young people born in the 1980s published *The Choice of Cult youth* under the pseudonym "Cult Youth." "If you were not born in the 80s and don't understand the plots of the cartoon, then don't bother reading it," the authors said.

They finished the cartoon in only one month, including creation, design and publishing. The cartoon was released on iMart during May's Golden Week, and has sold well on the Internet.

To promote their work, they wrote a foreword under the name "Edward D Wood Jr" and "Junji Ito," both masters in the field of cult movies and cartoons. Of course, even the names were a joke, as "Edward D Wood Jr" became "Edward B Wood Jr," and "Ito Junji," "Ito Junsu."

Through blogs and douban.com, they've connected with other B-movie and cult fans around the world. They scoff at mainstream doctrines and interests.

We chose several authors to help illustrate their view of what a cult story is.



Photos provided by the Cult Youth

Q1: What is 'cult' in your view?

Q2: How long have you followed cult culture?

Q3: What's the most common thing the cult youth shares?

Bini Xiao, born in 1982, a scientific researcher in time, space and gravitation

A1: It is a circle where people share their independent tastes, thoughts and actions.

A2: I have watched some cult movies and listened to cult music since 2002.

A3: All of us are sincere, unsophisticated and love to think.

Song Qi, born in 1983, cartoon, animation, advertising and design freelancer

A1: It is everything related with mystery, childhood fun, creativity, boldness and recklessness.

A2: I have only known about cult culture for a few years, but I've loved all the things involved in it since childhood.

A3: We are enthusiastic and love

life. More importantly, we are earnest and down-to earth.

Guo Qi, born in 1983, cartoon, animation and advertising freelancer

A1: It is any kind of art or culture with strong individual marks made by people with unique life tastes. People's attitudes towards cult have two extremes: some people revel in it, and others hate it. There is no neutral viewpoint.

A2: I was born into the cult thing. I sought and dug out things I loved since childhood. I was like a sponge that soaked up whatever I was interested in.

A3: We have similar childhoods. We played 8-bit games ... We shared common interests, such as collecting movies, cartoons, music related to cult culture.

Related reading

What is 'cult'?

Cult roughly refers to a cohesive social group devoted to beliefs or practices that the surrounding culture considers outside the mainstream, with a notably positive or negative popular perception. In common or populist usage, "cult" has a positive connotation for groups of art, music, writing, fiction and fashion.

A group's populist cult status begins as rumors of its novel belief system, its great devotions, its idiosyncratic practices, its perceived harmful or beneficial effects on members or its perceived opposition to the mainstream.

Classic cult movies

Kill Bill, directed by Quentin Tarantino

Fight Club, directed by David Fincher

Pulp Fiction, directed by Quentin Tarantino

A Clockwork Orange, directed by Stanley Kubrick

Cube, directed by Vincenzo Natali

Braindead, directed by Peter Jackson

Battle Royale, directed by Kinji Fukasaku

Blade Runner, directed by Ridley Scott

The Crow: Salvation, directed by Bharat Nalluri

Sin City, directed by Frank Miller and Robert Rodriguez

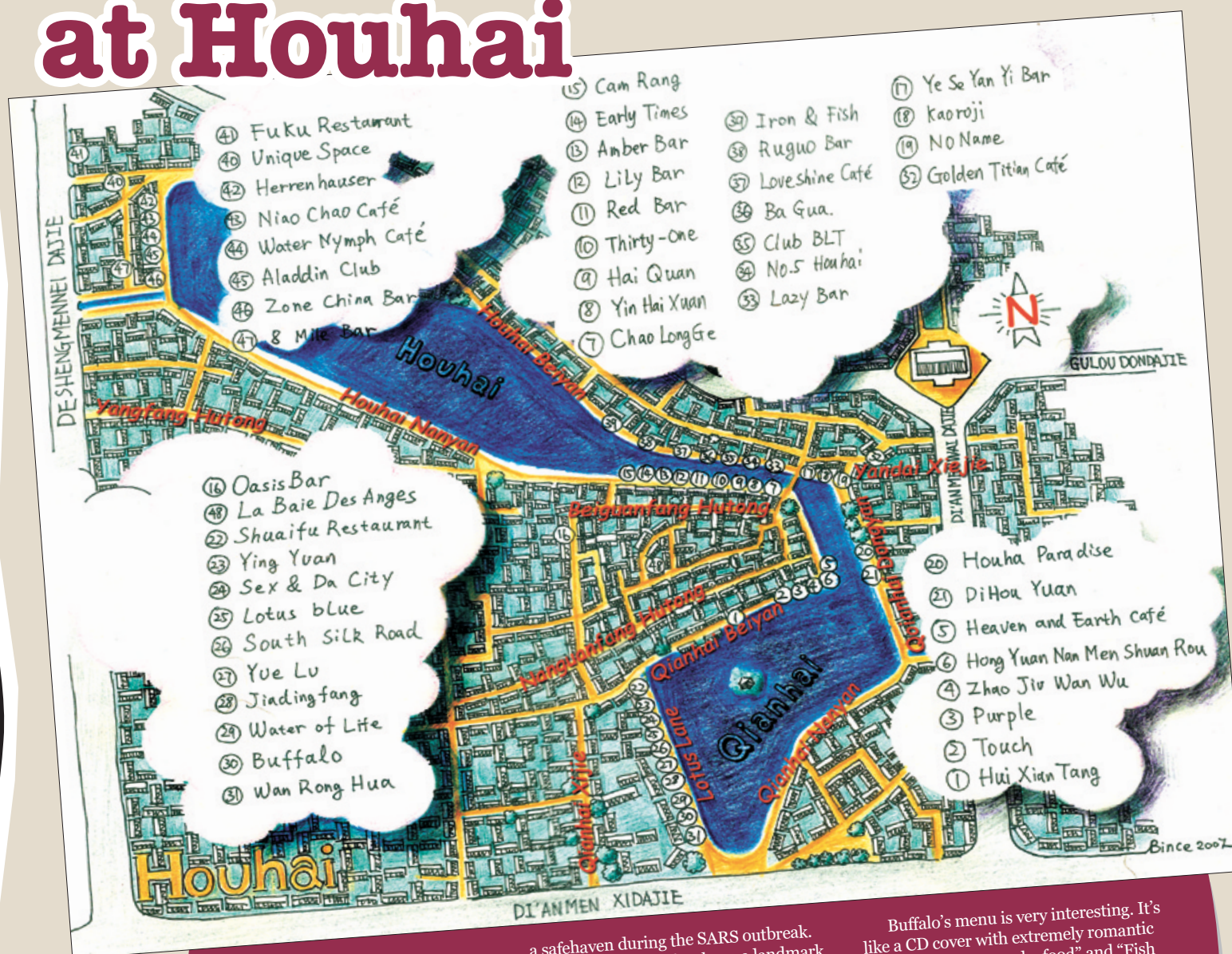


Song Qi



Guo Qi

Dining and drinking at Houhai



By Ammie Wei

Houhai, located dead in the middle of old Beijing, is also known as Shishahai, an area including Qianhai, Houhai and Xihai and with a history of more than 700 years.

According to historical records, Houhai was designed in the thirteenth century. Since the Yuan Dynasty (1279-1368), Houhai has been the city's largest commercial area. It was also the terminus of the local water route, so the surrounding area booms with hotels, restaurants, stores and business workshops.

Many interesting restaurants and shops have shot up around the lake during the last six years. The lake, however, achieved global fame after becoming

a safe haven during the SARS outbreak. Since then, Houhai has been a landmark of Beijing nightlife and a tourist destination to rival Wangfujing.

Houhai is a comprehensive entertainment area. Along its chic, sexy and prosperous shores, you can also find traditional food like chou doufu, stinky doufu, a popular local snack disliked by many foreigners.

Every restaurant in Houhai has its own style of entertainment, decoration, food and drink. Take Qiulu Shanwu for example, it's a delicate Hunan restaurant. You can have a great night view on the second floor, and enjoy a star-dotted sky on the third floor.

Buffalo's menu is very interesting. It's like a CD cover with extremely romantic names like "Love can be food" and "Fish from the love sea."

South Silk Road is one of the Yunnan and Guizhou food restaurants favored by local diners seeking a nice environment. Its sofa seating and large glass windows let customers have a good view of Shishahai while dining.

Nuage, the famous Vietnamese restaurant, has very striking decorations. Some people have compared it to the *The Lover* (1992), a Hong Kong-France collaboration written by Marguerite Duras. Business is booming, and Nuage is expanding into a new building.

Illustration by Wang Bin

Continued on page 17 ...

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The Buffalo

By Annie Wei

When I first saw The Buffalo's purple-colored sign opposite Yashou market, I thought it was another real estate ad, but it turned out to be an advertisement for a spacious bar. As I recall, the establishment opened in Houhai after Lotus Lake Market was launched in 2004, and had only one store with impressive delicately-carved wooden doors and windows. Now, it has expanded and become the biggest bar and restaurant around the Houhai area.

Why is the bar called The Buffalo?

According to the bar manager, the name is derived from the stone buffalo, which represents fortune and grains in the US Midwest. The Beijing Buffalo bar owner used the name and tried to build a haunted house for the Beijing celebrities from his imagination. So, there are two buffalos in Beijing's famous Houhai lotus lake market. One represents the past and the other the future.

Many bars tend to use cheap materials to decorate their premises, but The Buffalo spent some real money. For example, each chair and table is made from one-hundred-year-old wood, placing the value of each chair in excess of 1,000 yuan. There are lots of hanging green plants and lace that create a mysterious Southeast Asian style.

The most special object in the bar is the ice container. The manager said there were only two of its kind in the world, another is in a Las Vegas' casino. You should also check out the basement where you'll discover many big and small candles as well as floating water lilies to create a very mysterious atmosphere.

There were many visitors sitting outside The Buffalo, enjoying their Houhai night. The newly-expanded areas of the place are decorated in different styles and seem quite spacious for customers to sit and not be bothered by the wandering crowds.

It can be a good place for some fun dates, enjoying the breeze from the lake and the romantic atmosphere created by the glowing candles. Here are my tips for successful dating at this expensive place: do not take someone who wants to rush into marriage and is wondering if you will make a suitable future spouse or somebody boring who is always trying to figure out how much you make per month. Take someone who is fun, relaxed and a little sexy and you will definitely have a good time at The Buffalo.

Where: 6 Hehua Shichang, Xicheng

Open: 11am to late night

Tel: 6617 1666, 6617 2146

Cost: 50 yuan per person



Touch

By Chu Meng

This classy little lounge is sandwiched between the raucous venues of Houhai: part modern and part classical Chinese. The balcony seating offers a good view of the crowds below. Most of the patrons are well-heeled locals there to quaff Chivas.

Set slightly away from the venues crammed onto Houhai's shoreline, this quiet retreat takes advantage of its large patio and garden space to host speed dating for English speakers, free are language classes and beer

pong. It serves up standard "Italian" Houhai fare with a pricey drink list – perfect for beer pong on a quiet afternoon.

Happy hour runs from 6 to 9pm with buy-one-get-one-free drinks Ricard costing 10 yuan, Cider and beer are 10 yuan, French wines start at 20 yuan. Enjoy French music, food and

drinks, and if you get lucky, a French kiss.

Where: No 8 Qianhai Bei Yan, Houhai bar area

Open: 1pm-6am next day

Tel: 6616 0809

Cost: 50 yuan per person



Photo provided by Touch bar



Water Nymph Cafe

By Annie Wei

It seems so hard to find a peaceful place in Houhai nowadays, where you can quietly enjoy the lake but not be bothered by huge, noisy crowds or bicycles. But, in fact, there still are some quiet refuges to be found.

From my friends I learned of a restaurant called The Water Nymph Cafe which took me a little time to locate. The reason is simple. Houhai covers quite a large area. Most of the loud bars and restaurants are situated along Houhai Nanyan, or Yandai Xiejie. This cafe, sitting at Houhai Xiyan, is about a 20-minute walk from Yindingqiao.

It's easy to find good pizza, wine and Chinese restaurants around this area but some complain that the coffee leaves a lot to be desired. According to Huang Ying, the cafe's manager, The Water Nymph uses excellent Illy brand coffee.

It's a sweet and cozy cafe, with lots of room, comfortable sofas, and ample books and magazines to peruse. Huang Ying says they have several special events such as visiting professors from prestige universities giving philosophy talks about Nietzsche. And you'll occasionally enjoy colorful music nights at the cafe, as well.

However, my favorite part of The Water Nymph is its second floor. Although Chinese customers find it a little too hot to be on the roof in the daytime, I am assuming it's perfect for great parties, with themes involving bikinis, barbecues or sailing. Oh, yes, the sailing place complete with equipment is only 20 meters away! Plus, you can really enjoy the lovely lake view there!

Where: A4 Houhai Xiyan

Open: 9:30am-11pm

Tel: 8403 1687

Cost: 30 yuan per person



Photos by Annie Wei

Continued on page 18 ...

... continued from page 17

Wine gives socializing a theme



By Annie Wei

Two French brothers make their wine restaurant, La Baie Des Anges in Houhai, a popular spot for socializing Beijing's ex-pats. Olivier Six, 28 and Benjamin Six, 26, arrived in Beijing last June and started their business in September of last year.

But many cafes and restaurants offer events like wine tasting in order to offer

their customers more alternative entertainment. How can La Baie Des Anges stand out in the competitive Houhai area?

"The place caters to the varied tastes of laowai, with many more different kinds of wine, and it's a nice place to hang out with friends," Louis Mok, a French student said.

It's not surprising that more and more ex-pats start businesses in China, but more of them, who get into the dining scene, should have more experience as it applies

to China.

"China isn't new to us," the Six brothers said. Before they moved to Beijing, they visited China many times. And their Chinese "uncle" in Beijing, who has been the brothers' friend for many years, looks after them.

"The main difference in having a wine restaurant like this one is the working hours," Six said. Customers in Beijing are used to visiting after 9pm, so they're forced to cook at 1am and leave work after 3am.

The good news is their business is getting better, according to Six. One reason is that more people like hanging out in Houhai in summer than winter, and another reason is that their name is known by many people.

The two brothers try to organize different events every week. For example, there is a

wine-tasting party every Tuesday night, live music played by their friends like a Brazilian music night that was staged on July 7, a theme party spotlighting National Day on July 14 and a speed-dating event held on July 21.

"We organized our first speed-dating event in March and after that, we got many requests asking when the next one would be," Six said. The event costs only 80 yuan which includes three glasses of wine.

"So far, most of our customers are foreigners, French, American, Italian and South American," Six said, "there are more and more Chinese customers dropping in, accounting for about 20 percent of our clientele."

Where: 5 Nangongfeng Hutong, Houhai, Xicheng
Open: 6pm-2am (closed on Monday)
Tel: 6657 1605
Cost: 25 yuan above per person



Golder Titian

By Chu Meng

Set in an expansive, comfortable space open to the lake, this well-stocked bar hosts live music nightly with hip cover bands. It boasts an extensive menu of Western foods, champagnes and red and white wines along with staple booze. It caters mostly to local high rollers, and is the perfect stop for live jazz music and champagne.

Boasting dark wood paneling and floor to ceiling windows, this jazz dive defines rugged sophistication. It was started by Liu Yue, Cui Jian's former saxophonist, and it's the most authentic jazz joint in town, featuring top acts from Thursday to Sunday. It's perfect for those tired of glitz but hungry for jazz.

The beat goes on every Friday, Saturday and Sunday. The performances range from inspirational to downright formulaic, but always very engaging. Two weeks ago, a bald German man played a fantastic piano he drummer was cool; the bass player had a funky smile. Some of my friends visit there every Sunday night.

Go and listen for yourself.

Where: No 83 Yandai Xi Jie, Houhai's bar area

Open: 2pm-4am next day

Tel: 8404 7171

Cost: 80 yuan per person

Aladdin offers a taste of Arabian nights

By Gan Tian

Aladdin, located in Houhai Xi Yan, is decorated in typical Arabian style. Two golden sphinxes crouch outside the pub, guarding valuables within. Walking inside, you can see carpet with colorful Arabic patterns on lamps that look like they must have a genie.

The restaurant creates a mysterious environment and attracts guests from around the world.

It looks less crowded in daylight, but at night, the image must be totally different. The only way to make it

better would be to have three or four girls dancing around you, on their eyes unveiled. It seems like an image straight out of the Sudan.

The owners host activities and readings from time to time. Head there to learn something about Arabian culture, or just to meet hot girls. Their coffee is the second best thing in the house, and is served up in a very mysterious environment.

Where: No 4, Houhai Xi Yan, Haidian

Open: 12pm-midnight

Tel: 6400 9561

Cost: 100 yuan per person



In the Zone

By Gan Tian

Walking around the Houhai Xi Yan areas, Annie and I felt that it was totally different from what we experienced in the mainstream areas. It was much cooler and quieter. We felt calmed after walking through the disco pubs. Here we saw some quiet pubs, and Zone was the first one opened in this area in 2003.

The pub owner, Zhao Yang, has a sister named Zuo Jia. He named the pub Zone because "Z" is the first letter of her name, and "one" indicates that this is the first one and there certainly will be a second, or third branch of the pub in the future.

Zhao invited a Macao local chef to serve you. There is not a particular flavor in the pub, but you can taste typical Macao Baozaifan - Rice cooked under the pot, which is a little bit salty.

Zhao made this pub look like a typical ancient Southern architecture. Tiles and bricks, I felt like sitting in a small town in Southern China. Zhao got these materials from a Wangfu - a palace where a Prince lived - torn down in 2002.

There is a special seat, which is higher than others, located in the center of the pub. You first take off your shoes - those who have holes in their socks please don't try it - then

climb some stairs to sit there. Raise up your head and you can see the bamboo roof. Just imagine, sitting there and tasting coffee or tea with your friends.

"For some youths, they might like noisy and crowded disco, but here, elder guests can enjoy another environment," said Zhao. As he mentioned, many high-ranking officials of government, bosses of international companies, and artists drop in frequently to taste their spirits.

Where: No 12, Houhai Xi Yan, Xicheng

Open: 1pm-midnight

Tel: 8403 1419

Cost: 50-100 yuan per person

Photos by Annie Wei and Gan Tian

Continued on page 19 ...

... continued from page 18



8 Mile Bar

The owner of the bar really liked the movie, "Eight-Mile" starring Eminem and he's a hip-hop music fan.

Where: 6 Houhai Xiyuan
Open: 11am-2am
Tel: 8402 3773

Cam Rang

Where: 37 Houhai Nanyan
Open: 10am-10pm
Tel: 6613 5689

Chao Long Ge

Where: 4 Qianhai Nanyan
Open: 2pm-2am
Tel: 6618 6270

Club-BLT

It's the first socializing bar in Houhai and covers more than 600 square meters, and features all high-tech KTV equipment.

Where: 6 Ya'er Hutong Xicheng
Open: 1pm-3am
Tel: 8400 2085

Early Times

Where: 18 Houhai Nanyan
Open: 2pm-3am
Tel: 6618 7912

Fuku Restaurant

This restaurant has a grey outside wall, which matches the color of Beijing and a lovely lake view. It has good Sichuan food and nice interior decor.

Where: A4, Binghai Hutong, Deshengmen Nei Dajie, Xicheng
Open: 0:30am-11:30pm
Tel: 6402 4093

Hai Quan

Where: 10 Qianhai Nanyan
Open: 1pm-2am
Tel: 6615 9456

Heaven And Earth Cafe

The restaurant provides delicate

Guangdong food.

Where: 2 Beihai Qianyan
Open: 11am-2am
Tel: 6657 1870, 8704 9777

Herrenhauser

The Houhai Xiyuan area is really nice. What's unique about this bar is that it's a meeting place for motorsport enthusiasts.

Where: 22 Houhai Xiyuan
Open: 2pm to late
Tel: 6404 2059

Hong Yuan Nan Men Shuan Rou

How can you pass up the local food of this Beijing hot spot? This restaurant is famous in town and located in the Houhai area.

Where: 1 Nanguangfang Hutong
Open: 11am-2am, 5pm-midnight
Tel: 6616 7033

Hui Xian Tang

Combination of east meeting west, the place is in a traditional Chinese building, very spacious.

Where: 13 Beihai Qianyan Shishahai
Open: 6pm-2am
Tel: 6617 6221, 6657 2971

Jia Ding Fang

Where: Lotus Lake Market, 9, Qianhai Xiyuan
Open: 10am-3:30am
Tel: 6612 9898

Lily Bar

Where: 18 Houhai Nanyan
Open: 2pm-2am
Tel: 6612 1518

Lotus Blue

The bar provides frilly decorations and live jazz.

Where: 51-6 Di'anmen Xidajie
Open: 11:30am-2am
Tel: 6617 2599

Loveshine Cafe

It's a very small cafe with only a few tables, but lists 51 selective kinds of coffee.

Where: 12 Houhai Beiyuan
Open: 1pm-3am
Tel: 8400 2941

No Name

One of the first bars in Houhai, is decorated with old furnishings and plants and has a great panoramic view of the lake.

Where: 1 Dajinsi Hutong
Open: 11am-late
Tel: 6618 6061, 6401 8541

Oasis Bar

Where: Ding 37 Beiguangfang Hutong, Houhai Nanyan
Open: 10am-10pm
Tel: 138 1015 2564

Purple Bar

Located in a traditional courtyard, The Purple Bar has lovely white and purple colored sofas. A good place for grabbing some rays while listening to piano.

Where: 7 Beihai Qianyan Shishahai
Open: 1pm-4am
Tel: 6612 5700

Red Bar

Where: 29 Houhai Nanyan
Open: 8pm-2am
Tel: 6613 2023

Ruguo Bar

Where: 12 Houbai Beiyuan
Open: 1pm-2am
Tel: 8402 2858

Sex and Da City

With a name derived from the popular American TV show, no wonder tourists flock here and take pictures from the outside.

Where: 51-5 Di'anmen Xidajie
Open: 4pm-2am
Tel: 6612 5046

South Silk Road

Where: 12-13, Lotus Lake Market, A19, Qianhai Xiyuan
Open: 11am-midnight
Tel: 6615 5515

Wan Rong Hua

Where: 15-16 Di'anmen Xidajie
Open: 11am-2am
Tel: 6617 1740

Water of Life Bar

Where: 51-8 Xidajie Di'anmen
Open: 5pm-midnight
Tel: 6617 1381

Yin Hai Xuan

Where: 5 Qianhai Nanyan
Open: 11am-2am
Tel: 6616 7970

Yue Lu

Where: Lotus Lake Market, A19, Qianhai Xiyuan
Open: 11am-2:30pm
Tel: 6617 2696

Zhao Jiu Wan Wu

Have you watched the Taiwanese movie, Zhao Jiu Wan Wu, describing the nightlife of young urbanites? This bar is a place for like-minded individuals to have fun and relax after work.

Where: 3 Beihai Qianyan
Open: 11am-3 or 4am
Tel: 6617 0091

(By Annie Wei)



Photos provided by Touch bar

BEIJING TODAY Beijing Today is available at all locations listed above.

Error Correction

Pinnacle Plaza & Roma Lake Guide, Page 19, August 31
The telephone number of BJS Holiday should be 5166 7711
We are sorry for the inconvenience this error may have caused you.

Tour the youngest volcanic island, Weizhou

By Jackie Zhang

Weizhou Island is located in the ocean to the southeast of the city of Beihai, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region. It is the biggest and youngest volcanic island in China, famous for its sea, sun and sand. A seabed of living coral, a warm volcanic bay, temples and kind islanders make it so warm that any time of the year is great to visit.

Dongchu is the webmaster of Wenzhou's biggest website and he has released diverse information about the island. As an expert on everything on the island, Dongchu shared his experience and recommended popular and romantic places to visit.

Volcano Park

The park is at the west point of the island, located on Eyu Mountain. It is as high as a 12-story building and very colorful. The bottom of the mountain is of exquisite volcano tuff, and then, the top is black breccia terrane. The top of the mountain was formed during the last volcanic eruption 7,000 years ago.

It is not easy to walk on the terrain. Rocks and holes are everywhere, so be careful. Colorful coral is scattering around in shades of green, blue, brown, purple, yellow and white. Since the site is far from the volcanic area, few people know about it.

Sesame Beach (Zhimatan)

The best time to go to Sesame Beach is in the early morning. It is the best place on the island to see the sunrise. Rocks in brown, yellow, black and blue dot the beach. When the tide comes in, colorful shells are hidden in its white foam, as well as many crystal soldier crabs.

You will understand why the beach is named

Sesame Beach. Because of the volcano erupted, numerous lava pods burst out and crashed onto the beach.

The beach actually is not a real one, but formed by lava flow. Standing there, you can imagine how thousands of years ago, when the volcano erupted, lava flowed out into the ocean.

Catholic Church

Weizhou Island is a natural volcanic island, and the humanities are rarely its focal point, but the Catholic church is worth a visit. The symbol of the church on the map is interesting and totally different from other markers.

The church is magnificent with its wooden black board, desks and chairs in a hall on the second floor. It was built for children to study before the island became a tourist destination.

In the 1860s, French churchmen came to Weizhou Island to proselytize, and founded the church in 1870. The architecture is typically Baroque, and most of the islanders are devout Christians.

Diving

Diving is a new activity on the island. There are two places that offer it. One is near the Nar Camera for 180 yuan. Private buses will take you out to the diving point.

The other club is run by Mongolians and is better for more experienced divers.

The price is 200 to 400 yuan, but it can be haggled down to 100 yuan.

Everything beneath the sea surface is interesting and strange. But be careful not to touch coral or unknown creatures, they may be poisonous. The best time to dive is from 3 to 4pm.

Accommodations

It's easy to find a place to live on the island. If you want to view all of Nanwan Bay, you can choose the Penglai Hotel. Rooms with a sea view cost around 180 yuan per day, but the facilities are ordinary

and the food is expensive.

Private family hotels are nice to live in and cost around 20 yuan per day. These family hotels are located near the sea. You can go to buy food at the nearby market yourself and cook with the hotel owners.

If you want to enjoy the trip and save money, Guanhaiou is recommended. It will cost 100 yuan for a standard, clean room. The service here is well-rounded.

Getting to the island

To go to Weizhou Island, first go to Beihai. From Beijing, you can take a direct flight to Nanning, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region. You can travel to Beihai from Nanning by plane or train, then head for the island by ship.

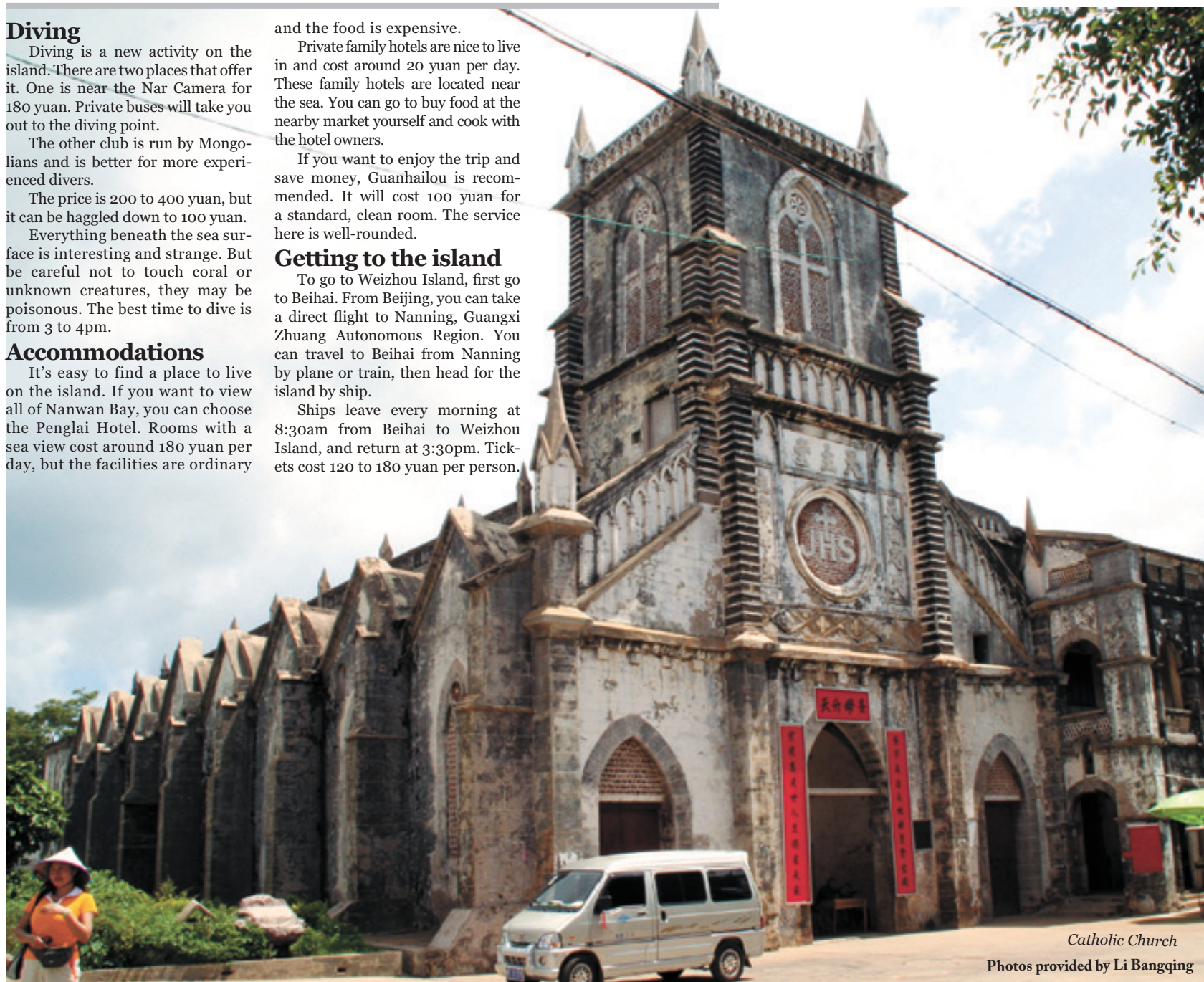
Ships leave every morning at 8:30am from Beihai to Weizhou Island, and return at 3:30pm. Tickets cost 120 to 180 yuan per person.



Volcano Park



Sesame Beach



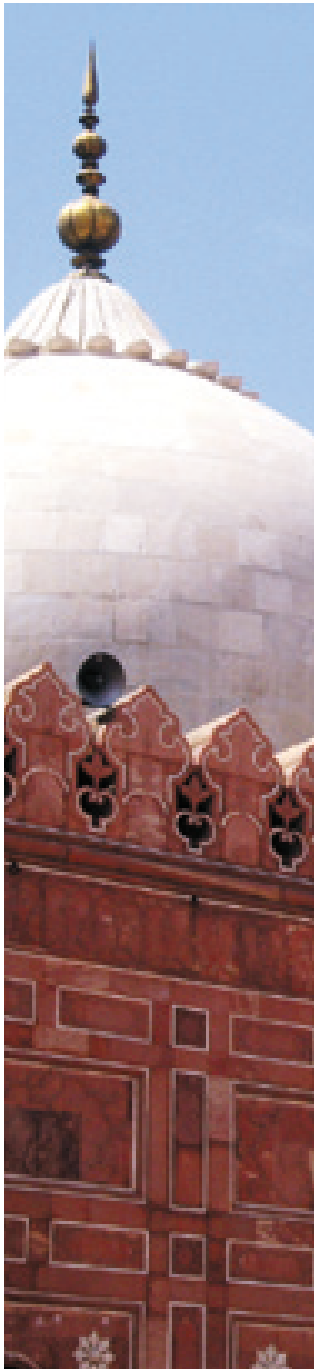
Catholic Church

Photos provided by Li Bangqing

Touch the 'Soul of Pakistan'

By Yang Huan

Lahor is Pakistan's second largest city and capital of its northeastern Punjab Province. Founded in legendary times, Lahor has been the cultural center of Pakistan for over a thousand years – something that has earned it the nickname the "Soul of Pakistan." It has many historical and cultural attractions to keep tourists occupied.



Badshahi Mosque



Pakistani soldiers ready for the ceremony

Wagha Post – Miniature of the Pakistan-India division

If you want a better understanding of the history of separation between India and Pakistan, head for Wagah, the only Indo-Pakistan border town, to watch the daily flag lowering ceremony between soldiers of the two countries.

At around 5:30pm local time, the prelude begins. It's better to shoot the scene with your video camera, because it's like a soccer match with both sides pushing the patriotism pedal to the floor.

Cries of "Pakistan Zindabad" (Long live Pakistan) alternate with shouts of "Jai Hind" (Long live India). The Indians play war music, and the Pakistanis play religious music. The Indians sing and dance, while Pakistanis stay in their seats, with men on one side and women on the other. In the crowd, a Pakistani old man stands out: dressed in the national color green, he comes here every day, carrying a large Pakistani flag and sparking the crowd's enthusiasm with his shouts.

The prelude lasts for an hour, and then the soldiers begin their performance. Pounding the ground

with long strides, a glowering Pakistani soldier with his warrior moustache goose-steps hurriedly towards the gate.

Both soldiers then start to lower the Pakistani and Indian flags fixed high on poles planted at the foot of the gates. Carefully folded, the flags are carried away by the soldiers.

Getting there: Take bus No 4 from Lahore City Railway Station and it will drop you at the Wagha border after a 75-minute ride. The trip costs 11 Pakistani rupees.

Notice:

1. Do not cross the border without a proper Visa, and make sure your Pakistani Visa allows multiple entries. To cross, pass through customs and walk the remaining 200 meters to the actual line.

2. While watching the prelude of the flag-lowering ceremony, choose seats in accordance with the local custom. Men sit on one side of the stand and women sit on the other.

Badshahi Mosque – Symbol of the Mughal Empire

Pakistan is a Muslim country with many mosques, among which the Badshahi Mosque is famous in terms of history and architecture. It

is one of Lahor's best-known landmarks, and a major tourist attraction which epitomizes the beauty and grandeur of the Mughal era.

Built in 1673 by Emperor Aurangzeb, the Badshahi Mosque is the second largest in Pakistan after the Faisal Mosque in Islamabad. Like the character of its founder, the mosque is vast and majestic in its expression.

The courtyard is capable of accommodating as many as 55,000 worshippers. Four lofty minarets stand at the four corners of the mosque. Walking in the courtyard, you will be deeply touched by the magnificence of the architecture and the power of religion.

The most fantastic part of the mosque is its impressively sophisticated craftsmanship. The walls were built with small kiln-burnt bricks laid in lime mortar, but have a veneer of red sandstone. The steps leading to the prayer chamber and its plinth are in variegated marble.

The prayer chamber is divided into seven compartments by richly engraved arches supported by heavy pillars. Out of the seven compartments, three double domes finished in marble have superb curvature, and the rest have curvilinear domes with a central rib in their interior and flat roof above.

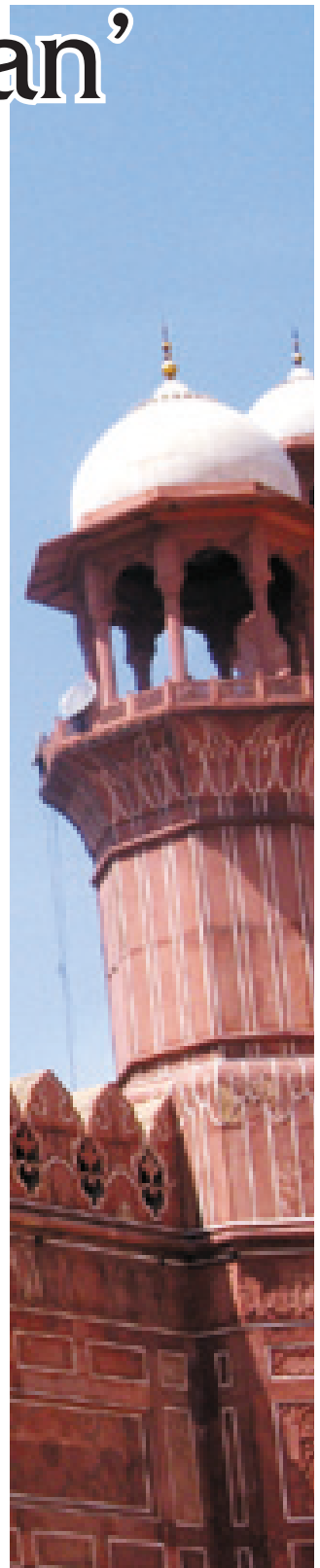
Notice:

1. Entrance is free, but you will be asked to pay 10 rupees to the shoe keeper upon exit.

2. Do not wear shorts to this or to any mosque. Women are advised to wear long or half-sleeved clothing, and to carry a shawl so they can cover their head. Remove shoes before entering.

3. Try going late at night, when there are fewer people there.

4. During the summer, the bricks in the courtyard get extremely hot. You can rent a pair of special shoes to make the surface more bearable.



Photos by Yang Huan

21

Travel abroad

Editors: Yu Shanshan He Jianwei Designer: Yang Gen

BEIJING TODAY



Project planning: look&listen ad agency

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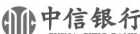
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Chinglish story

This column focuses on Chinglish mistakes in our daily life. If you have any experiences to share, send them to Gan Tian at gantian@ynet.com.

Hey, don't hang up on me!

By Gan Tian

Jason Cox was quarreling with his girlfriend on the phone when I dropped into his apartment for a visit last week.

"I knew it! That guy! It was all your fault! You should say sorry, not me!" He seemed so fed up.

"If you go on acting like this, I'm telling you, we are done!" I heard his girlfriend's screaming voice in the earpiece and then the deadly beep-beep-beep sound of a phone no longer connected.

"Hey, this crazy woman hung up on me!" Jason spun around, speaking to me angrily.

I suddenly remembered a song called, "Hung Up," that goes, "every little thing that you say and do, I'm hung up, I'm hung up on you ..." but why did the same words sound so pleasant in the song contrasted to Jason's angry rant? I decided to unravel this grammatical mystery before becoming a victim of another one of my friend's heart-broken laments.

Jason seemed even more furious at my stupid question, shouting at me, "Isn't it clear? She hung up on me! That means she didn't want to talk to me

anymore on the phone and hung up! In the song you mentioned, the lyrics, 'she's hung up on me,' mean she's been thinking of me all the time! It's totally different! You know?"

I understood the words, "hung up" in Jason's exclamation earlier when he uttered, "she hung up on me," are a past form of "she hangs up on me" and certainly had something to do with the telephone action. The second, "I am hung up on you" from the song means, "I love you totally." This is a passive, affectionate voice. Oh my Goodness! The same simple phrase, "Hung up," appears in two different sentences and has two very different meanings! One angry, one loving. Isn't that amazing?

Madonna's song "Hung Up," translated in Chinese is, *Xinshenbuning*, and explains the meaning of the term quite clearly. It talks about a girl who is missing her lover all the time, "Waiting for your call, baby, night and day, I'm fed up. I don't know what to do."

I guess I should slip away now before Jason goes crazy again. He certainly is hung up on that girl.

Blacklist

Beijing Today has come up with Blacklist, a new column of words or phrases commonly misused by Chinese speakers. If you're planning to be an English teacher, reporter or employee of a multinational company, then this page is your new best friend. Watch it for each week.

Local Professor: Zhu Shida**1. Participate the race**

When "participate" means "to take part" or "to have a share," it is always an intransitive verb. So, you will have to say, "Participate in the race." When "participate" means, "To possess or enjoy in common with others" or "to partake," it can indeed be a transitive verb. For instance, When I am glowing with the enthusiasm of success, there will be none to participate my joy.

2. A total 336 domestic flights

When you say "a total," you have to say "a total of." Here, it becomes "a total of 336 domestic flights." Sometimes I find that beginners say "a total of over 336 domestic flights." This is logically not correct. When you say "a total of," it means you are sure of the exact number. The ambiguous "over" is absolutely out of place.

3. After three day's of competition

You will have to say either, "After three days of competition," or "After a three-day-long competition." The word, "day's" in possessive form is incorrect. Similarly, she is 20 years old, or she is a 20-year-old girl.

Native Speaker: Joe Edwards**1. Participate the race**

When using the verb, "participate" before a noun, you must insert the word "in" when the verb means to "take part." The above sentence should read, "Participate in the race." When this particular verb means to "partake," the verb becomes transitive. For example, "When I am bathed in the glow of success, there will be none to participate my joy."

2. A total 336 domestic flights

Close, but no cigar! In this phrase, if you want to be correct, and I'm presuming you do, you need to follow the word, "total," with the preposition, "of." It should read, "A total of 336 domestic flights." Sometimes, rookies write, "a total of over 336 domestic flights." As Mr Spock would say, this is totally illogical. The word "over" is not needed. When you say, "a total of," you are stating a fact, it can't be any less or any more. This is the exact figure. The total. It's like saying that one circle is "rounder" than another! Round is round! Period!

3. After three day's of competition

How about, "After three days of competition," or the ever-popular, "After a three-day-long competition." Sound good? Well, it isn't. It's perfect!

Chinglish on the way

This column aims to identify Chinglish in public areas. If you see any Chinglish signs, please take a picture and send it to gantian@ynet.com together with your name and address.



Photo by Derrick Sobodash
Cash recycling

By Derrick Sobodash

While "Cash Recycling System" may sound like a beautiful euphemism for "money laundering," it's actually a service provided by the China Minsheng Banking Corp.

This machine was spotted at the branch by Twins Mall at Yong'anli. Its function would have remained a mystery had this writer not daringly crammed in his ATM card, desperately seeking money for lunch.

Shockingly, the Cash Recycling System accepted it.

The inside menu looked incredibly similar to an ATM. It allowed you to deposit money, withdraw money, transfer money and check your balance. The eight buttons on the side controlled all the options, and it was full of very familiar prompts.

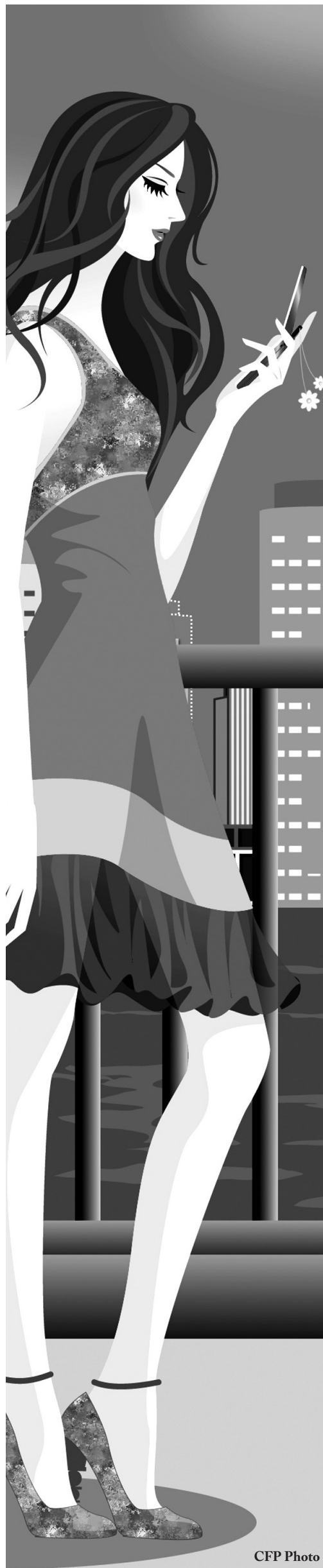
Then again, maybe it's no so shocking since it is an ATM.

Here's a hint: ATM stands for Automatic Teller Machine. A teller is the friendly person who works at the one out of 20 open windows in the bank. Any machine that automatically performs any of her services is therefore an ATM.

At first glance, it may be difficult to understand how Minsheng Bank came up with this wonderfully Chinglish name. Apparently, they wanted to emphasize that cash can both go into the machine and come out. Since bottles go in and come out new bottles in traditional recycling, it must have seemed a clever idea to the bank's extremely qualified translator.

Instead, the phrase ends up lost in Chinglish. The name sounds more like a machine where you deposit your ripped up 100-yuan notes to get issued crisp ones, or where you could throw in 20 shredded one-yuan notes and have it spit out a 20.

The bank gets an "A" for creativity, but a "D-" for clarity.



CFP Photo



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Exhibition

A Style of Their Own — Group Exhibition of Contemporary Chinese Paintings and Sculptures

A group exhibition of original paintings and sculptures by contemporary Chinese artists, including: Ban Xue Jian, Cao Na, Chen Yu, Ji Xiao Feng, Li Yun, Liu Bin, Pan Ying, Pang Yong Jie, Qiao Qian, Ren Shi Kun, Yin Jun, Yin Kun and Zhang Hua.

Where: Beijing Central Art Gallery & Cultural Venue, 02 Riverville Square, Tianzhu, Shunyi

When: Daily 9am-8pm, until September 21

Admission: Free

Tel: 6450 8483, 6450 8646

Group Exhibition by Korean Artists

Where: Beijing East Gallery, Deshengmen Watchtower, North

Second Ring Road, Xicheng

When: Tue-Sun 9am-5:30pm, until September 22

Admission: Free

Tel: 8201 4962

Movie

After This Our Exile (Fu Zi)



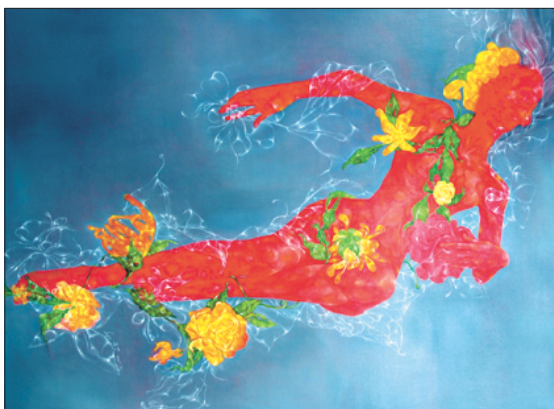
It's a father-and-son drama set in a timeless, rural Malaysia, populated by Chinese characters.

Where: Cherry Lane Movies, inside Kent Center, Anjialou, Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: 8pm

Admission: 50 yuan

Tel: 139 0113 4745



Saturday, September 15

Exhibition

Xue Song 2007 Solo Exhibition



Where: Chen Ling Hui Contemporary Space, No 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: Daily 10am-6pm, until October 14

Admission: Free

Tel: 6435 9665

Huang Min Solo Exhibition

Where: LA Gallery Beijing, No 319, East End Art, Caochangdi, Chaoyang

When: Tue-Sun 10:30am-6pm, until October 9

Admission: Free

Tel: 6432 5093, 6432 5073

Outdoor

Royal Canal Boat Tour to the Summer Palace

Cruise along the imperial canal in a traditional style motorized canopy boat as it passes by the Beijing Zoo, the Beijing Aquarium and the Purple Bamboo Garden; appreciate the great views en route, or stroll through the gardens to be greeted by local singing groups hidden in the bamboo forests. Then stop, mid-route, to walk along hidden paths to explore once neglected Indian-style stone pagoda temples.

When: Meet at the Chinese Culture Club (Kent Center, No 29, Anjialou, Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang) at 9am and return at 13:30pm.

Cost: 200 yuan (includes boat ride, all entrance tickets and snack)

Tel: 6432 9341, 6432 1041

Sunday, September 16

Exhibition

Group Exhibition

Where: PIFO New Art Studio, Beijing International Art Camp, Suojiacun, Cuigezhuang, Chaoyang

When: Tue-Sun 10am-6pm, until September 30

Admission: Free

Tel: 6437 1792

Artists In Residence / Work-In-Progress Preview

The group exhibition features Winand Starling, Ramon Roig Segarra, Yi Hui, Teng Xiao, Qi Wenqing, Lou Sijia, Zi Qi, Zhang Weiguo, Shen Qin, Wang Ye and Wang Yunchong.

Where: NY Arts Beijing Space, 318 Art Garden, Hegezhuang, Chaoyang

When: Tue-Sun



10am-4pm, until September 29

Admission: Free

Tel: 8457 3298,

134 3951 8846

Outdoor

Madame Soong's Residence and The Soong Sisters

Visit the former residence, with beautiful courtyard houses and gardens, of Madame Soong Ching-ling, wife of Republic of China founder Sun Yat-Sen

and dubbed the Mother of the Nation.

When: Meet at the Chinese Culture Club (Kent Center, No 29, Anjialou, Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang) at 2:30pm and return at 5pm.

Cost: 100 yuan

Tel: 6432 9341, 6432 1041

Stage in October

Dance

Light

Who: National Ballet of China
Where: Tianqiao Theater, No 21 Tianqiao Beiwei Lu, Chongwen
When: 7:30pm, October 1-4
Admission: 80-880 yuan

Concert

Love of Angel — Ali Wood

Who: Ali Wood
Where: Beijing Exhibition Theater, No 135 Xizhimen Wai Dajie, Xicheng

When: 7:30pm, October 1

Admission: 180-880 yuan

Bowfire's Virtuoso

Violin Music

Who: Canada-based Bowfire demonstrates what the violin and fiddle can do in the hands of masters.

Where: Ethnic Culture Palace Theater, No 49 Fuxingmen Nei Dajie, Xicheng

When: 7:30pm, October 2-3

Admission: 80-880 yuan

The Phantom of the Opera

Who: China Broadcasting Symphony Orchestra

Where: Beijing Concert Hall, No 1 Beixinhua Dajie, Xicheng

When: 7:30pm October 3

Admission: 80-880 yuan

Die Meistersinger

von Nuremberg

Who: Edo de Waart and Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra

Where: Zhongshan Music Hall, inside Zhongshan Park, Dongcheng

When: 7:30pm, October 4

Admission: 100-880 yuan

Russian Romances by

Mischa Maisky & Lily Maisky

Who: Mischa Maisky & Lily Maisky

Where: Beijing Concert Hall, No 1 Bei Xinhua Dajie, Xicheng

When: 7:30pm, October 17

Admission: 100-880 yuan

The Nigel Kennedy Quintet

— Blue Note Sessions

Who: Nigel Kennedy

Where: Poly Theater, No 14 Dongzhimen Nan Dajie, Chaoyang

When: 7:30pm, October 18

Admission: 180-980 yuan

Symphony Concert

Who: Gil Shaham, Shuailan and Singapore Symphony Orchestra

Where: Poly Theater, No 14 Dongzhimen Nan Dajie, Chaoyang

When: 7:30pm, October 23

Admission: 60-680 yuan

The 10th Beijing Music Festival Closing Gala Concert

Who: Lang Lang (Piano), Christoph Eschenbach (Conductor) and Orchestre de Paris

Where: Poly Theater, No 14 Dongzhimen Nan Dajie, Chaoyang

When: 7:30pm, October 26

Admission: 180-980 yuan

(By Qiu Jiaoning)

An Exhibiton Paintings by Maltese Artist, Godwin Cutajar, will be held at Ahead Gallery at 798 ART Zone Dashanzi from the 19th to the 25th of September 2007. All artists and persons who are interested in art cordially invited to discover and enjoy the artistic creations of Mr. Godwin Cutajar.

Details:

Gallery of Exhibition: Ahead Gallery, Dashanzi

Date: 19-25 September 2007

Exhibition Time: 10am-6pm